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# **A History of the Schools of Mahomet**

**And A Historical Calendar  
1833 – 1952**

by

**Isabelle S. Purnell**

**October 1962**



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# INDEX

Pages

## DEDICATION

PURPOSE I Can't Say "No."



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CHAPTER I	Early History of Education in the United States	1-2
CHAPTER II	Mahomet's Earliest School History	3-5
CHAPTER III	Districting, Platting, Recording	6-10
CHAPTER IV	Distribution of Dividends, Payment of Bills, Collection of Notes, Election of Boards of Trustees and Directors	11-15
CHAPTER V	Early Schools in Champaign County	16-19
CHAPTER VI	Country Schools, in General	20-29
CHAPTER VII	Martin School, District 30, Mahomet Town (1859)	30-46
CHAPTER VIII	Harmony School, District 28, Mahomet Town (1867)	47-65
CHAPTER IX	Salem School, District 31, Mahomet Town (1868)	67-70
CHAPTER X	Cherry Grove School, District 26, Mahomet Town (1885)	71-73
CHAPTER XI	Union School, District 27, Mahomet Town (1890)	74-76
CHAPTER XII	Harris School, District 230, Mahomet Town (1903)	77
CHAPTER XIII	Wright School, District 32, Mahomet Town (1874)	78-80
CHAPTER XIV	Hannah School, District 33, Newcomb Town (1852)	81-84
CHAPTER XV	Oak Grove School, District 34, Newcomb Town ( )	85
CHAPTER XVI	North School, District 24, Scott Town (1874)	86
CHAPTER XVII	Other Schools Koogler, Dist. 25, Scott Town (1874) South Prairie, Dist. 19, Scott Town (1882) Cresap School, District 21, Scott Town (1896) White Hall School, District 20, Scott (1872) Pioneer School, Dist. 73, Hensley Town (1852)	87
CHAPTER XVIII	Our Schools--Civil War Days and on to the Turn of the Century. Learnin' in the Gay Nineties. Forty Years of School in the "Old Brick."	88-115
CHAPTER XIX	Mahomet Schools for the First Half of the Twentieth Century--1900-1950	116-149
CHAPTER XX	County Superintendent of Schools, County Institutes County Teachers' Examinations, County Final Examinations	150-165

	Pages
CHAPTER XXI Teachers--The Years They Taught and Their Locations as to Schools	166-187
CHAPTER XXII General Historical Calendar for Mahomet Township and Champaign County	188-219
CHAPTER XXIII A Backward Glance	220-226
CHAPTER XXIV Progress?	227
Bibliography	

## PICTURES AND ILLUSTRATIONS

The Town of Mahomet in 1910	2
Plat of School Districts	8
Plat of School Districts--Redistricting	9
Map of Roads Showing Location of Country Schools	15
First Schoolhouse	16
Urbana's Schoolhouse	18
Martin Schoolhouse (Louise Purnell Jones at the door)	30
Pupils at Martin School, (1901)	32
Pupils at Martin School, 1896	33
"Miss Ferne"--Ferne Hood Carter (Martin School)	34
Landscape Drawn by Young Pupil of Martin School	35
Milkweed Pod (Drawing Used for Final Examination)	38
Narcissus (Drawing Used for Final Examination)	38
Louise Purnell (Jones) Enters Martin with the Packed Lunch	46
Martin's Sunbonnet Children	46
Pupils at Harmony School, 1896	57
Laura Rayburn (Purnell) and her Teacher, Harry Miller	58
Harmony Pupils with the Draped Flag for Background, 1898	59
Pupils and Teacher of Harmony School, 1908	63
Teacher and Pupils of Harmony School, 1909 or 1910, Showing Stile	63
Pupils and Teacher at Harmony School, 1924	65
Isabelle and Mary Purnell (Seward) and the Pony, "Snowball"	65
Harmony's Last Day of School Picnic, 1910	66
Salem (Red Brick) School	67
Teacher and Pupils at Salem (The Red Brick) 1902-1903	70

	Pages
Teachers and Pupils of Oak Grove School--1939	85
Graduates of 1895	103
Commencement Program of 1895	104
Invitation for Graduating Exercises of Class of 1898	109
Program for Graduating Exercises of Class of 1898	110
Bill Hayward, Principal; Chet Morehouse, Football Coach and friends	112
Nelle Morehouse Morrison's High School Graduation Picture	119
High School--Mahomet--Spring 1902	119
Class of 1903 or 1904?	122
Mahomet Grade School Room--1911	127
Teacher and Pupils of Grade School Room	130
Football Team--1912	132
Mahomet Community High School of 1921 (now the Junior High)	136
Mahomet High School--1920	137
Pupils and Teacher in the Fifth and Sixth Grades--1935-1936	141
Old Grade School and the New Addition of 1952	148
Mahomet-Seymour High School, Unit District No. 3 of 1962	148
Mr. J. A. Carson in his Drug Store	149
Belle Dale (Pfiester) and the pupils of the White Hall School	183
Mrs. Silas J. (Grandma) Purnell and her Grandson, Paul Purnell	187

## DEDICATION

To my country school teacher at the Martin School, District 30, I would like to give praise. Ferne Hood Carter (Mrs. Charles) taught me the three "r's"--reading, writing and arithmetic. A good teacher is not always to be found and to have had one of the best for six years was my good fortune. Thanks, "Miss Ferne." It is almost futile to attempt advanced education on a weak foundation so to have had one of the best teachers for so many years was a great privilege.

When something good or bad happened to either of my two sisters or to myself, often my father would say, "Just tell them you are Charlie Purnell's daughter," or, "Did you tell them that you are Charlie Purnell's daughter?" At that time we were not aware of how much confidence our father was building in our minds and how he was giving us something far more valuable than worldly goods. To have confidence and faith in one's self is so necessary for "believing you can do a thing" is more than half the battle, so it is to my father that I want to give recognition.

Then last, but the most important of all persons, is my Mother. It is she who started me out and is seeing me through to the finish--building and rebuilding those qualities of character, determination, integrity, stability and intestinal fortitude--never complaining but making a full-time job of rearing her children, realizing her task is never a completed one but that there are always improvements which can and must be made and yet that too much chipping away on a "nearly completed" product may spoil the statue.

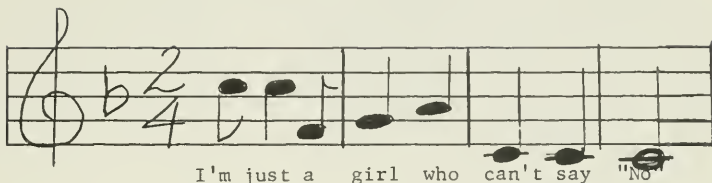
The youth of our schools are molded by capable teachers and good parents. Having had all three, to them I dedicate this book on the History of the Schools of Mahomet, the schools where I received my basic education.



PURPOSE

I CAN'T SAY "No"

From Oklahoma



Because I can't say "No" and because the Twentieth Century is made up of committees of one kind or another who meet to set up a committee of one kind or another who must meet to appoint someone to be a committee of one to "DO"--well, that's how this book came into being.

Requests:

(1) Will you act as Historian for the Rayburn family (a well-known family--my ancestors--in and around Mahomet)? I did, and have recorded the history back to the 1600's. My interest has continued now to the recording of current history.

I Can't Say "No"



(2) Will you act as Historian and write up the history of our Methodist Church (my church) for the Centennial? I did and the book was published in 1955, a book which not only covered the history of the Methodist Church and the other churches of the town, but briefly covered the business establishments, the schools, organizations, and the early town history, in general.

I Can't Say "No"



(3) Will you give a talk at the monthly meeting of our Parent-Teacher's Association on the History of our Mahomet Schools? I did. The few old volumes with some information on the early history of Mahomet were studied, as well as Courthouse records, Town Board records, records of the School Board of Trustees, Director's Books and any others suggested which might carry information on our early school history. In addition, there was correspondence and conversation with the "Oldsters" and those persons who had been pupils in these Mahomet Schools.

I Can't Say "No"



(4) Now that you have the information collected, surely you will compile it into a book and make it available to others, won't you?

I Can't Say "No"

Most persons spend from one fourth to one third of their lifetime in school so we all have memories of these early days. Perhaps as you read these pages, the incidents recorded will stir up a nostalgia. History repeats itself so the incidents recorded in this book may remind you of your school days whether they were spent in the one-room country school or in the town or city school. May these pages help you reminisce. However, we must never look back too long but rather catch up (or on) to the next astronaut and meet the future--on to a new day and a new age.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

It would be impossible to acknowledge all those persons who made this written history of the Mahomet schools possible. I am indeed grateful to the many persons living in and around Mahomet and Champaign who have been students or teachers in our schools during these early days or have had near relatives who were early students and have related their experiences in these schools, telling of their wonderful memories and the bits of history. I am also appreciative of those many persons living away from our community who have recorded their memories and passed them on to us so that they could be included in this brief history. I have been most fortunate in finding it possible to talk or communicate by letter with many persons who are octogenarians or older and I want to make special mention of them--Mrs. Eliza Davis, Mr. Lee Dale, Mrs. Lon Spurgeon, Mr. William Johnston, Mrs. Ida Paulis, Mrs. Bertie Deadman Pfiester, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Rayburn, Mrs. Maymee Clark, Mrs. Adelia Renfrew Stearns, Mrs. Sylvia Morehouse Benson, Mrs. Gertrude Tanner Day, Mr. Dan Crowley, Mrs. Effie Wright Scott, Mr. B. Frank Rayburn, Mr. and Mrs. Elbert Morrison, Mr. Charles Dale, Mr. Frank W. Taylor, Mrs. Olive McNeill, Mr. T. J. Stickrod, Mr. and Mrs. M.A. (Colonel) Phillippe, and the late Mrs. William Rayburn and Mr. Harry Boyer.

There is a longer list of those persons with whom I have been in close contact either through the verbal or written word who were students and teachers of the next decade--people who were between the ages of seventy and eighty but mention can not be made of each of them, although I am most appreciative of their help.

A history would not be good if we touched on just the early days so for those who lived in the next decades and shared with me their memories, I am also grateful.

My thanks to each of you who has done his part in making this book possible.

## CHAPTER I

### EARLY HISTORY OF EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES

Before we look at the early history of Mahomet schools let us review some points on schools in general in the United States. In 1647, the Massachusetts Legislature passed a law requiring parents to teach their offspring to read and understand the principles of religion and the capital laws of the country. It soon passed another law requiring towns of one hundred or more householders to establish and maintain a school. Thus, the Puritans invented the universal, compulsory, tax-supported educational system.

The Declaration of Independence, with its great affirmation that "all men are created equal," implied a logical consequence: a universal franchise founded on universal public education. If the people were to be responsible for the control of the state, then the state must be sure the people had enough education to become intelligent voters. The common experience had been that education was in some way a function of religion and that the country itself was in the nature of a religious enterprise.

Nathaniel Pope, the Illinois delegate to Congress, drew the act enabling the territory of Illinois to become a State in 1818. In this act there were four clauses on public schools:

(1) Section 16 in each Township was to be given to the State for schools which meant that the State had acquired a million acres

(2) The gift of salt lands

(3) Five per cent of the amount realized from the sale of lands should be reserved for the state--two per cent to go to the improvement of roads and three per cent for schools and of this three per cent, one half of one per cent was for colleges and universities

(4) Set aside an entire township for use as a seminary.

In 1840, Horace Mann, a lawyer and the first secretary of the first state board of education ever created, initiated reforms that made Massachusetts a model and himself an inspiration to education everywhere. He felt that education had to not only give information but moral ideas and that these moral ideas were in the Bible and that the Bible should become a standard fixture in every school and that every day students should be exposed to its moral lessons by hearing them read. The teacher did not attempt to interpret for the Bible spoke for itself.

This brought about a vast expansion of nonsectarian public schools versus the old church-sponsored and private schools for the Protestants saw in Mann's proposal a sensible compromise but there was also the beginning of the parochial schools of American Roman Catholics. So the great schism in American education took place.

It was in 1821 that the Illinois General Assembly passed an act which authorized the Town of Upper Alton to levy a tax not exceeding seventy five cents on each town lot to be applied to the support of teachers, erection of school buildings or repairs. Under this act, Alton established the first free school in the State. In 1825, the General Assembly passed the first act establishing free schools in the State. In 1829, the Assembly passed an act providing for the sale of schools and seminary lands which laid the foundation for the present system.

Quoting from John C. Gross's article "What I Learn--That I Teach," in the Methodist Magazine, Together, June 1962 issue--"Even roughhewn Peter Cartwright, the archetype of the vigorous circuit rider, though he slashed at sham in the classroom as quickly as he did affectation in the pulpit, helped start three colleges--McKendree, MacMurray and Illinois Wesleyan. And while in the state legislature, he introduced the bill setting up the University of Illinois. Between 1830 and 1861, of the 133 permanent colleges started in the United States, 34 were founded by Methodists. In 1865, when reconstruction began after the Civil War, we had institutions of learning in every state east of the Mississippi except West Virginia. Quality of instruction claimed attention of our early educators, and in 1892 the University Senate was established under Methodist auspices. It set up standards for both instruction and facilities, and it is noteworthy that it was the first academic accrediting agency in the United States. Christian culture is dependent upon Christian leadership. Our college-minded church built its educational program on theological convictions passed along by John Wesley."

We know that the United States was founded on religion and the early colonists broke away from their motherland to enjoy freedom of religion within the new land. Many of our early colleges, universities and schools were founded and promoted by some of our churches.



The Town of Mahomet in 1910

## CHAPTER II

### MAHOMET'S EARLIEST SCHOOL HISTORY

In the very earliest recordings for Mahomet Township, the Champaign County Commissioner's Record Book--County Court Record A which is located in the Champaign County Clerk's office, there is information on Mahomet dating back to 1833, and in the Champaign County Abstract Book 1836-1854 which is in the County Superintendent of School's office at the Champaign County Courthouse, we find more information on the Town of Mahomet, but nothing pertaining to the Mahomet schools prior to 1836.

There are early facts on Mahomet in the History of Champaign County, published by Brink, McDonough & Company and in the History of Champaign County, Volume I, edited by Stewart and published in 1918. The two books, however, are not in agreement on the early dates. Brink & McDonough say the first schoolhouse on the Sangamon was a log cabin 16 feet by 18 feet, located 1/2 mile south of Mahomet, then Middletown, in 1835, the teacher being Charles Cooper and the children being J. R. Robertson, Maxwells, Scotts, Osborne, and Lindsays and that the windows were of greased paper. They also state that the first schoolhouse was built in 1837 on Section 14, (which would have been somewhere in what was later known as the Harmony School District) and was called District 1. In this article, George Cooper was listed as the first teacher and the first school district was formed by Jonathan Maxwell, T. S. Scott and John G. Robertson. Stewart reports the first school in Vermilion County (and all of this area was originally Vermilion versus Champaign County) was in 1832. Stewart proceeds to quote verbatim from Mr. Abbott's article.

Mr. S. C. Abbott, grandfather of Mrs. Nelle Morehouse Morrison, a long-time resident of Mahomet, was eighty years of age at the time he wrote the article which appeared in the December 30, 1904 issue of the Mahomet Sucker State on the early Mahomet Schools from which I shall quote: "The first schoolhouse, District 29, (originally District 2) was a log house 14 x 16, built by subscription and labor donations, about 40 rods from the sand bank owned by Jonas Lester and was occupied in 1833 by George Cooper, the first public school teacher in the township at a salary of \$15.00 per month and board among the scholars. The next was a log house near where Philip Cherry's old house now stands (and this, we believe, is a few doors west of where the Nazarene Church is now located and has long been known as the Bert Bailey house.) In 1847 a frame house near where William Lindsey now lives (and known to us now as the Iva Lindsey property, located one block east of Route 47 on East Main Street) was used as a school and in 1851 a two-story frame house near where the present brick one stands served as the school. This frame building later became the residence of Mr. Blanchet. (This was known to us as the "Vet" Lewis or Joe Cooke house and was located just south of the present grade school.) The first school teacher was Joseph Lindsey, appointed in 1838. Until 1840 the school district was but one district. That year Noble Adams was the teacher for the entire township. His salary was \$20 per month and he boarded himself. In 1841, the township was divided and made into three districts. Middletown was District 3. Some years later it was divided again and then was made No. 2. Fifty years later it was



made No. 29 (see the section on Districting and Plats). In 1841, Isaac Parmeter was the teacher, then Dr. Noble Adams, Joseph Lindsey, James Brown, etc. (See the Section on Teachers, Years Taught and Schools' Location.)"

The school was originally east of Route 47 on East Main Street because this was the business section of Mahomet at that time, according to Mrs. Ombra Lindsey Foster, and later, because of a fire, the business houses all moved a few blocks west to what is now its present location. The school also moved to its present location.

It was also recorded that there was a school one and one half miles east of Mahomet but this probably was in error and may have been confused with the recording of Robert Fisher that his father started having meetings, but these were church meetings and not school. Mr. Fisher did live east of Mahomet and did give the land for the Harmony School which was located one mile north of Route 150, although Harmony School was originally at the corner of Route 150 on the Rayburn land. More details on this are found in the Chapter on the Harmony School.

A statement was also made that there was an early school on the Timber-edge Farm (the farm one mile east of Mahomet on Route 150--the Harris Farm) and that B. F. Harris had established a school for his own children. We find no actual record of this. We do find that in 1851 B. F. Harris built at his own expense a log schoolhouse which was later used as a church. Quoting from Stewart's History of Champaign County--"B. F. Harris had a Sunday School class which was held in a little church on his farm on the Sangamon. He carried his Library to his Sunday School every Sabbath in a red handkerchief and back to his home at night." This was not the beginning of what was later known as the Harris School.

We do not have information as to exactly when the Primary School was built. We do know this building was a white two-room frame structure which was for the first and second grades, and was located just south of where the present brick grade school building stands. When the new brick building of 1905 was constructed the old primary building was purchased by "Nash" Smith and moved to where it now stands, was remodeled and used as a home. This house is still standing and is the home of our present post-mistress, Mrs. Francis Hall. The author has never been able to find any information as to whether this primary building was ever used for anything except the first and second grades.

Under date of June, 1836, in the County Court Record Book A, we read: "ordered that John Mead be and he is hereby appointed a school commissioner (a school commissioner was comparable to our County Superintendent of Schools today) for Champaign County, provided he enter into security according to law. Ordered that James Osborn, Fielding L. Scott (great, great grandfather of the author) and Jonathan Maxwell be and they are hereby appointed Trustees for Township 20 N R 7 E. Ordered that funds arising from the sale of school lands in this County which bear interest at the rate of 12 per cent. Then, in the book, Sale of School Lands 1836-1873, which book is also in the office of the County Superintendent of Schools in the Court-

house, was recorded the sales made in the different townships for School Section 16 (as per Nathaniel Pope's recommendation of 1818 which later became a law) which section was sold at auction July 22, 1836, and brought \$3337.50 cash, and the money was loaned by the Trustees. (The interest only was to be used forever for school purposes.) Those who bought the land were John Rea, Fielding Scott, John Mead, Alvene Barnett, Matthew Busey, Joseph Davis, Asabel Bowers, James Lyons etc.

In the Champaign County Abstract Book 1836-54 which is in the County Superintendent of School's office at the Courthouse for the year 1836, we find many notes made to different borrowers, the form being similar to the one listed below:

John Mead, School Commissioner, debtor to one hundred received of John Rea on tenth day of November 1836 the use of the indebtedness of the township 20 N of Range 7--\$100

Other notes to the different persons who borrowed and the respective amounts were: Jacob Meaton \$165.66 2/3, Alvene Burnett \$120., Alvene Burnett 26.66 2/3, Fielding L. Scott \$60., Fielding L. Scott \$55, John G. Robertson \$67.50, Michael H. Jose \$173.33 1/3, Jacahriah Osborn \$70.80, John Mead \$133.26 2/3, James Osborn \$45.83 1/4, James H. Lyons \$33.33 1/3, Asabel Bower \$35, Matthew Busey \$78.33 1/3 (on August 9, 1837), James Lyons, Thomson L. Webber, Daniel Hammer, Isaac Busey, William Webber, David Cox and Lewis Adkins. In the same book was recorded the payment of \$3.00 to John Mead for his services as School Commissioner and \$5.00 paid to John Brownfield on an order of Garret More for surveying.

Two excerpts have been taken from the County Court Record Book A and are being quoted exactly:

March 1837: John Mead, School Commissioner, this day presented his books for settlement whereupon it appears to the satisfaction of the Court that the Securities, Mortgages to which he has taken on sales of school bonds are good. Some few mistakes appeared in the matter of calculation which when corrected by him will render the whole of his official transaction satisfactory. June 1837: John Mead, School Commissioner, presented the papers pertaining to the sale of Lots 8, 9 and 13 of which he became the purchaser. He produced his notes with John Bryant as Security which is by the court approved. He also presents his papers related to the sale of Section 16, T 20, N, R 7 E which was also approved by the Court.

The Champaign County Abstract book records that John Mead received \$582.62 1/2 of auditor of State, May 1, 1840 as the County Fund of Champaign County.

The first book recording the actions of the Board of Trustees that is in the Champaign County Courthouse is dated 1858. This means there is an interim of twenty two years from the time the Board was appointed before there are any recorded actions that we could find. However, in the Book dated 1858-1948 we find an entry under date of April 12, 1875 which talks of a note dated March 18, 1844. By this we know there were school transactions which were taking place at this early date.

## CHAPTER III

### DISTRICTING, PLATTING, RECORDING

During these early years much time was spent by the Board of Trustees in setting up the School Districts and making Plats. There has been set up this separate section on the Districting and Platting which verifies Abbott's earlier statement on the changing from one to three to seven and back to six districts. There was also a renumbering of the districts. It is interesting to note the petitions made to move from one district to another, and to establish new districts. All of these excerpts were taken from the Record of the Board of Trustees from 1858-1948 and in some cases are quoted verbatim.

October 10, 1859--Joseph Taylor asked to be stricken out of Town 20 as the schoolhouse in the other township was more convenient to him to send to. Request granted and plat ordered to be changed accordingly.

April 7, 1862--petition presented from several citizens to set up a Union District and the petition was granted.

April 6, 1863--the steps taken were not legal (pertaining to the establishment of Union District) so petition declared null and void.

October 5, 1863--formed a Union District and ordered the same to be platted.

April 4, 1864--the new district formed at the last meeting was annulled and another petition was presented to have a new district formed.

October 6, 1866--John Maxwell asked to be removed from District 5 to District 2. Tabled.

April 2, 1867--See Plat (page 8) with the Sections of Mahomet Township divided into seven School Districts. (Definite changes in the District were made April 2, 1867; April 4, 1871; October 2, 1876; April 3, 1882; April 6, 1901; and April 14, 1902. Just the one Plat is shown with a change in colors for the changes made for the different years--'67, '71, '76, '82 and '01. A new Plat was made for April 1902.)

April 4, 1871--Changes made on Plat (See Plat, page 8)

October 13, 1873--Petition for new District for Hensley, Newcomb and Mahomet Townships.

October 2, 1876--Changes made on Plat (See Plat, page 8).

February 10, 1877--School Treasurer of Scott County turned over funds to his successor, S. C. Abbott (by this entry it can be seen that the Board of Trustees was for more than Mahomet Township).

April 3, 1882--Changes made on Plat. School Districts reorganized--District 7 is now District 5, and the original District 5 is stricken. (See Plat, page 8)

April 1, 1889--Petition of Parnell and Melke to form a new Union District.



April 8, 1890--Petition for new Union District. (No additional notes were found that this action was not legal so it is believed that this is when Union District was officially formed. Setting up Districts was not easy. It would seem the first petition to set up the Union District was April 7, 1862 and that perhaps it was officially set up April 8, 1890, an interim of twenty-eight years. However, there was a record of a teacher at the "West" School, later known as the Union School, by 1887-1888.)

April 1, 1901--Petition to remove from District 3, Town 21 and attach to District 3, Town 20 and detach from District 3 and add to District 2.

April 6, 1901--Changes made on Plat (See Plat, page 8).

April 7, 1902--Plat to divide District 5

April 14, 1902--According to new law for numbering and after granting petition for the forming of District No. 230 with territory taken from District No. 26 for that purpose the following Districts and their respective numbers were set up:

District 1--now District 28--known as Harmony School (formerly the Belling School)

District 2--now District 29--known as Mahomet Town School

District 3--now District 31--known as Salem School (formerly Little Red Brick)

District 4--now District 30--known as Martin School

District 5--now District 230--known as Harris School (formerly Carter School)

District 7--now District 26--known as Cherry Grove School (formerly Dale School)

District 6--now District 27--known as Union School (formerly West School)

(In The Book on the List of Teachers for their respective years which was in the Courthouse there was an article that the districts were given their present numbers by Superintendent Shawhan and that the districts were numbered consecutively by the entire County whereas before they had been numbered consecutively by the separate Townships.)

(See Plat, page 9)

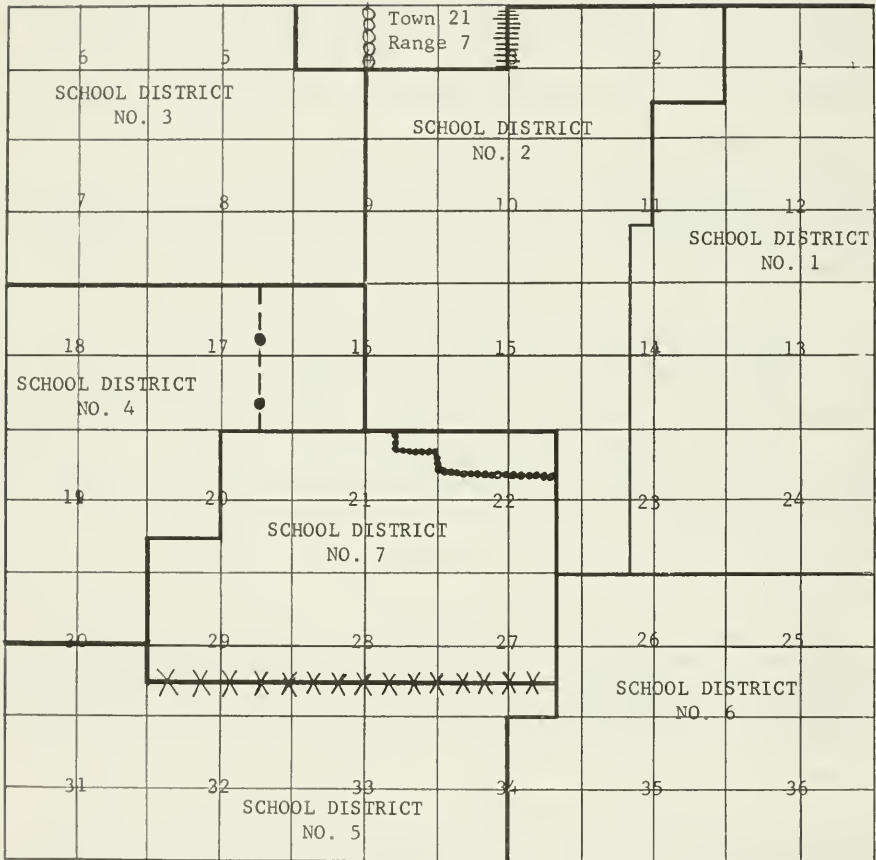
May 31, 1902--Appraisement of property of old District No. 26 (the Cherry Grove) which was recently divided (becoming Cherry Grove and Carter).

School Lot, \$100; two water closets, \$12.50; coal house, \$15; schoolhouse, \$200; library, \$10; furniture, \$25.--Total \$362.50.

April 3, 1905--Jacob B. Pittman petitioned that some 23 acres be removed from District 28 and added to District No. 29 and petition was granted.

April 6, 1908--Philip Mohr petitioned that his children (his land) be transferred from District 29 to District 26 on account of the danger to the children of P. Mohr having to cross the railroad and the river in order to get to school. Petition was not granted because it would furnish excuse to others and also taxes not so high in District 26 and it would take 160 acres of land out of the district.

# PLAT OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS



- 1. Plat of School Districts drawn April 2, 1867
- o--2. Change made on original Plat of School District April 4, 1871  
Change in east boundary of District 4--Between Districts 2 and 4
- 3. Change made October 2, 1876  
Change in north boundary of District 7--Between Districts 7 and 2
- XXX 4. Change made April 3, 1882  
District 7 is now District 5 and the original District 5 is stricken  
South boundary of District 7 removed and two Districts now together
- 5. Change made April 6, 1901  
A portion of the west boundary of District 2 is moved farther west

6	5	4	3	2	1
DISTRICT NO. 31 SALEM (Brick) SCHOOL			DISTRICT NO. 29 MAHOMET TOWN SCHOOL		
7	8	9	10	11	12
				DISTRICT NO. 28 HARMONY SCHOOL	
18	17	16	15	14	13
DISTRICT NO. 30 MARTIN SCHOOL					
19	20	21	22	23	24
	DISTRICT NO. 26 CHERRY GROVE SCHOOL				
30	29	28	27	26	25
	DISTRICT NO. 230 HARRIS (Carter) SCHOOL			DISTRICT NO. 27 UNION SCHOOL	
31	32	33	34	35	36

Drawn April 14, 1902. According to new law for numbering and after granting petition for the forming of District No. 230 with territory taken from District No. 26 for that purpose. Plat for School Districts.

April 3, 1911--Petition by C. B. Hyde to transfer from District 28 (Harmony) to District 73 (Pioneer). Petition granted.

March 9, 1915--Petition of Fred Rayburn to transfer from Bunker Hill District to Pioneer District. (It seems strange that such a petition would be in Mahomet's Record books in that neither Pioneer nor Bunker Hill are in Mahomet Township.)

April 5, 1920--Mahomet Community High School District No. 303.

October 2, 1933--request to transfer from District 230 (Harris) to Piatt County by John L. Day and Hattie Day.

April 2, 1937--Consolidate District 7 of Piatt County and District 12 of Champaign and District 14 of Piatt.

The schools and districts of Mahomet Township may have been organized earlier but the record is dated 1883, March 8, and signed by S. C. Abbott, Clerk of the Board of Trustees. The first map of six Districts was filed April 11, 1901. Other schools which are now (as of 1952) included in the Mahomet-Seymour District are: Seymour (town), Cresap, Whitehall, South Prairie, North and Koogler.

Newcomb Township was probably organized about the same time as was Mahomet but no dates were found. Hensley Township was organized April 23, 1888 with the record signed by Salem Hensley, President, and also by H. Leidendecker. Scott Township was organized April 10, 1877 with Thomas Mallory signing for the Board of Trustees and a new Plat was filed June 4, 1884.

The deeds for the different schools in the Mahomet-Seymour Unit may be found in the Recorder's Office of the Courthouse in the following books and on the respective pages:

Township 19, Range 7

District	Section	P.	Book	Page	Terms specified when land no longer used for school:
----------	---------	----	------	------	--

19	26	17	64	436	revert
20	33	4	44	152	sold outright
21	30	3	107	304	revert
24	2	4	47	49	revert
25	8	4	48	79	revert

Township 20, Range 7

27	35	-	-	-	
230	28	14	131	66	revert
26	21	14	74	536	revert
28	13	4	69	192	sold outright
30	20	5	x	639	sold outright
31	15	19	44	99	sold outright
32	29	5	76	407	revert

District 23 is the Town of Bondville; District 29 is the Town of Mahomet; District 22 is the Town of Seymour

## CHAPTER IV

### DISTRIBUTION OF DIVIDENDS, PAYMENT OF BILLS, COLLECTION OF NOTES, ELECTION OF BOARDS OF TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS

The first Board of Trustees for the Schools had been appointed in 1836 for Middletown (Mahomet) Township, but the first Book found with information on their meetings was 1858-1948. This book is located in the Champaign County Superintendent of School's Office. The first members of the Board of Trustees, recorded, were John R. Rayburn (great grandfather of the author) as President, J. C. Killgore, and T. M. Brown, Clerk.

The recordings made for the different meetings were quite interesting and give us a good picture of how our schools were conducted in those early days; because of this, excerpts have been taken from the book that give an overall picture on the payment of bills and schedules, distribution of dividends, collection of notes, election of members of the Board of Trustees (which also indicates the number of votes being cast, and that in turn gives an idea on the size of the town), the record of early School Commissioners (what are called, today, the County Superintendent of Schools), Treasurer's salary, taxes levied, and something on the early Board of Directors.

The entries revealed the following information:

1858--The Treasurer was ordered to pay the following bills and schedules as soon as the money can be collected:

The Treasurer's fee of \$50 (the Treasurer's fee was \$25 per six months)

Kelsey for District No. 1 (this would be the Harmony School District) \$100

Dav. T. Halsines and E. P. Kilsey for District No. 2 (Mahomet town area)--\$35.00 & 79.87

D. E. Hathaway for District No. 3 (Salem or Brick School) \$67.35, \$18.20, \$81.80 & \$12.65

S. A. Savage for District 4 (Martin School) \$13.75

W. L. Holmes for District 5 (Cherry Grove) \$99.00

and they were to collect interest now due, if required, by legal means.

The part these men played in their respective districts is not known nor why the particular sums of money were to be paid to them unless it might be the distribution that was to be made from the taxes collected, based on number of children in the respective districts and days of school taught, as can be seen from a later entry.

October 4, 1858--Dividend struck and found to be 33 cents to each child in the Township and the Treasurer ordered to pay the same

District 1 (Harmony) \$75.00--N.J. Chaddock

District 2 (Mahomet town) 115.00--Maggie Brown

District 3 (Salem) 66.00--Amelia L. Flower

District 4 (Martin) 67.50--J. Cuning

District 5 (Cherry Grove) 62.50--N. J. Chaddock

April 4, 1859

Interest due on township fund  
subject to distribution \$54.  
State and County tax received from commissioner 532.62

Distributed as follows:

Dist. No. 1 (Harmony)--on enumeration of children	127	51 1/4	71.43
No. of days taught in Dist.	906	2 3/4	<u>27.</u>
			98.43
Dist. No. 2 (Mahomet)--on number of children	150		84.40
No. of days taught in Dist.	3831		<u>105.36</u>
			189.76
Dist. No. 3 (Salem)--on number of children	51		29.00
No. of days taught in Dist.	1516		<u>45.48</u>
			74.48
Dist. No. 4 (Martin)--on number of children	71		40.40
No. of days taught in Dist.	2176		<u>65.00</u>
			105.40
Dist. No. 5 (Cherry Grove)--on number of children	81		46.10
No. of days taught in Dist.	973		<u>29.00</u>
			75.10

It appears that the distribution is made by the number of pupils in the district per the census and not by their school attendance. If one used the number of children in attendance as the basis for distribution then it would be 56.26 for District 1; the same for District 2; 28.69 for district 3; 39.95 for District 4; and 45.58 for District 5. Then again, if one used the number of days taught in the district, the figure would vary from 2.98 for District 1 to 2 3/4 for District 2; 3.00 for District 3; and then 2.98 for each of Districts 4 and 5.

October 10, 1859--District No. 5, not having the amount of school required by law, was not entitled to any of said dividend.

April 6, 1863--Invoice of Notes delivered to the town trustees by T. M. Brown (Clerk)

Example: August 1st/57 James Hendricks (Maker's name) John C. Mackey and I. V. Williams (Securities) \$60.00 (Amount)

The amount of notes from August 1, 1857, through April 1, 1862 was \$2,531.05. (Many well-known Mahomet names appeared both as makers of the notes and as security.)

September 4, 1865 The following persons voted for to wit:

J. A. Brown received 18 votes for Trustee  
H. E. Burnett received 22 votes  
R. P. Carson received 22 votes  
J. W. Harland received 5 votes; David Pittman received 1 vote  
J. Suman received 1 vote ; J. O. Neal received 1 vote



After counting the votes, J. A. Brown, H. E. Burnett, and R. P. Carson declared elected to wit. J. A. After drawing lots the following was the result: J. A. Brown elected for one year; R. P. Carson elected for two years and H. E. Burnett elected for three years. (This indicates the number of persons who went to the polls and voted, but it is not known if they could vote for three persons and thus perhaps only 25 persons cast their vote, or ?)

October 9, 1865--The Trustees became satisfied that there is an error of \$45.75 in favor of Township and against the Treasurer.... Therefore the Board of Trustees do allow the Treasurer---- an order for \$45.75 to be left in the hands of the Board and receipted by the Treasurer without payment. The Treasurer resigned and the Trustees appointed a new Treasurer.

December 27, 1865--The Board requested an election for a full board of school directors in District 5 for there is no person in said district holding said office legally so notices would be posted and election will be held January 8, 1866. (District 5 is Cherry Grove.)

October 6, 1866--All persons having notes in Treasurer's hands with only one security to procure additional security.

April 12, 1875--Purpose of authorizing the Treasurer to give or release a certain piece of land now owned by John W. Park, said land having been mortgaged by our need in March 18, 1844 for \$624.27. Recorded in Book B of Dues page 332. Said mortgage having run out and no deeds, mortgages or notes in the hands of the Treasurer or any records showing that the amount has or has not been paid in final on examination. That no good can occur by withholding the release it is hereby granted and ordered without fee or reward. A copy of the release is on file in the Treasurer's office marked "copy of Release to J. W. Park of Mortgage given March 18, 1844."

(The above entry would indicate to us the lack of records that were kept and the releases made. It also indicates that the schools in Mahomet were going and mortgages and notes were being made and given in 1844.)

May 13, 1872--School Commissioner, T. R. Leal

December 2, 1873--J. W. Pancake, President of the Board of Trustees. (Mr. Pancake was a resident of Newcomb Township so the Board of Trustees must have been for both Newcomb and Mahomet Townships.)

April 5, 1875--C. H. Lyle, Treasurer and Clerk.

February 10, 1877--Resignation of C. H. Lyle as School Treasurer for Scott Town, the books being turned over along with \$575. to his successor, S. C. Abbott, along with notes and accounts belonging to school township. (Thus it would seem that the Board of Trustees must have been for Scott, Newcomb and Mahomet Townships.)

February 23, 1877--S. L. Wilson, Superintendent of Schools. (This is the first time reference is made to a Superintendent of Schools versus School Commissioner.)

April 14, 1877--The Trustees having appraised the property deeded by H. S. Cox at \$120, the clerk was ordered to advertise and sell according to law. (The reason was not given on why Cox owed the District but it might be mentioned that this was H.S. Cox and not J.E. Cox who had formerly been Treasurer for the School District.)

April 2, 1888--Distribution made by number of children. (This distribution agrees with the number of children in the District per the Census.)

October 6, 1888--Treasurer ordered to not accept a wife's signature as security for a husband or a husband's as security for wife on personal notes.

April 6, 1901--Required by Section 57, page 28 of school law that a list is required of taxpayers of changed districts. George Warner and Ransome Hurley should be listed as non-resident taxpayers.

April 4, 1901--Charles Watts, County Superintendent of Schools

April 11, 1914--Tax levy for the year 1914--District No. 26--\$400; District No. 27--\$500; District No. 28--\$300; District No. 29--\$6000. (\$4000 educational and \$2000 building); District No. 30--\$600; District No. 31--\$400; District No. 230--\$600, making a total of \$8800.

April 11, 1915--Douglas Parnell, Treasurer, now gets \$100 per year.

April 5, 1920--Moved to make Treasurer's salary \$450.

April 3, 1922--The salary of the treasurer is \$275 (\$175 for community high school and \$100 for township--even though they had voted a salary of \$450 for the Treasurer in April 1920). There was a letter dated July 19, 1934 seeking information on whether a community high school district (involving several townships) could have the service of a treasurer paid by the Board of Education or by the Board of Trustees of Schools under whose jurisdiction that Treasurer was appointed and not by the Board of Education who would have no power over the Treasurer but there was no answer to the letter in the Record Book.

October 1942--Trustees put in claim for \$30 a year which was refused by the County Superintendent and in October, 1943, the County Superintendent ordered the Trustees be paid \$5. a meeting.

Also in the book was a copy of the published Annual Financial Statement of the Township Treasurer for Township 20, Range 7 in Champaign County, Illinois from July 1, 1946-June 30, 1947.

The school boards of the early days were first appointed and then later elected. They had to supply ways and means to support public education and they had to have money raised by taxes through the consent of the people on their taxable property. The Board was elected for a term of three years. Very often the members of a country school board did not have nearly the education they required of a teacher. One teacher told of how one of her board members could not read nor write but his wife laboriously taught him how to sign his name. This same board member, at whose home the teacher was boarding and rooming, required the teacher to read the daily paper aloud to him every night after supper.

A list of the Directors was given for the Town of Mahomet from 1863-1883; for the Cherry Grove School from 1866-1879; and for the other country schools of Harmony, Salem, Martin, Carter and Union from 1870-1883.

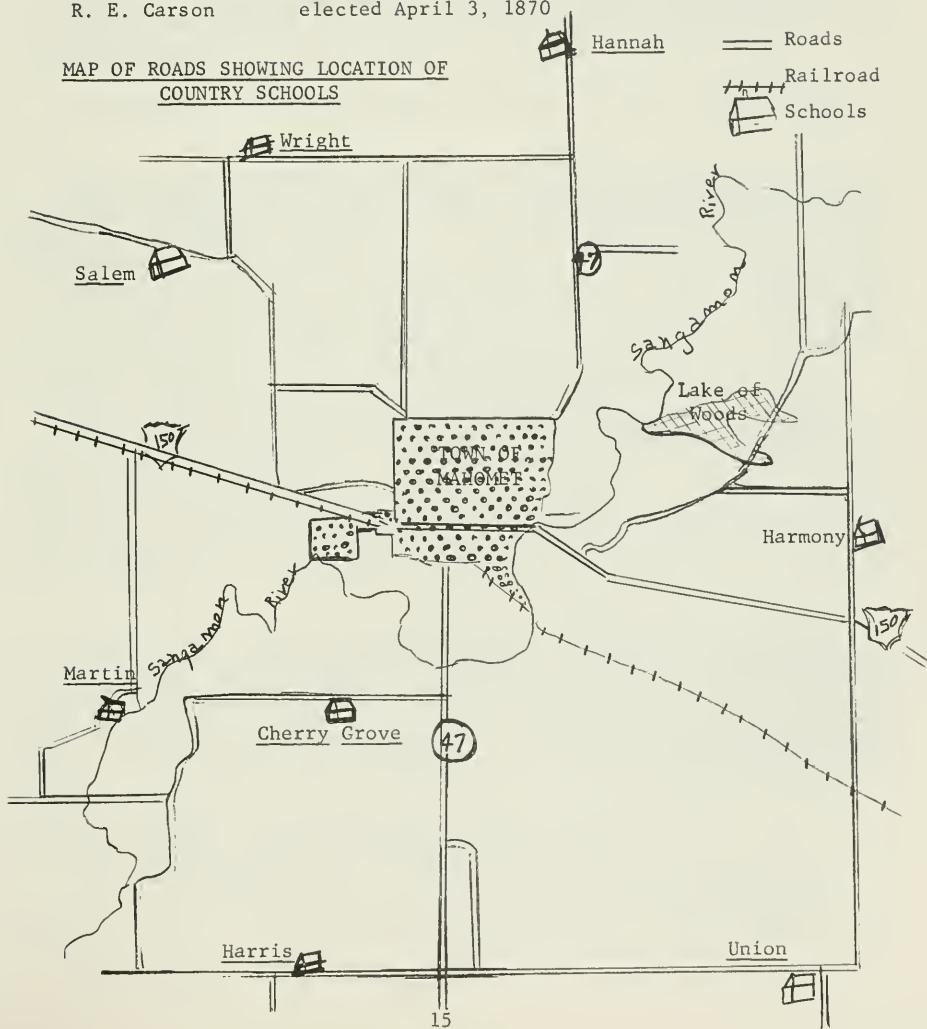
The record of the elected board members for the Town of Mahomet was given in the Board of Directors' Book. Persons were elected for a period of three years but there was an inconsistency as to when the elections were held, the times being April, May, June or August.



# Board of Directors for Mahomet Town School from 1862-1870

J. J. Gulick	elected August	term--3 years
John McHugh	elected August 4, 1862	term--3 years
Reuben Slater	elected August 4, 1862	
J. D. Gardiner	elected April 1863	
T. A. Davidson	elected August 4, 1864	
T. M. Brown	elected August 4, 1865	
Samuel Stern,	elected August 6, 1866	
J. D. Gardiner	elected June 4, 1870	
Thomas Davidson	elected June 4, 1870	
Willis Hubbard	elected May 2, 1870	
R. E. Carson	elected April 3, 1870	

## MAP OF ROADS SHOWING LOCATION OF COUNTRY SCHOOLS



## CHAPTER V

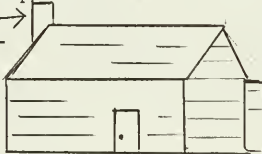
### EARLY SCHOOLS IN CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

Information on the establishment of schools in other townships in the County:

1829--Homer--James B. Wright informed the author that the first school in Homer was taught in 1829 by Abrams Johnson. The house was located about one-half mile northwest of Homer and was built of logs. There were fifteen pupils and the tuition was \$2.50 per term. In 1831, Mr. Wright helped organize a Sabbath School here. (Brink & McDonough)

1832--There were only two schoolhouses in the County (Historical Calendar)

1832--The first school had greased paper instead of glass windows. The windows were many and small. Asahel Bruer was the teacher. (The first school was pictured as the familiar wooden frame, box type country school such as → (Historical Calendar and the information later appeared in the Champaign News Gazette under date of December 19, 1910 and the Champaign-Urbana Courier under date of February 13, 1955.) (This school had a porch.)



Early 30's--Three miles southeast of Urbana was the home of John Brownfield and a school was established here in the early 30's. Rev. James Holmes, a Methodist missionary and millwright came to the neighborhood in 1835. He built the mill and then organized a Methodist class. He looked to the schoolhouse as a place to hold the class. The schoolhouse was described as built of split logs with puncheon floors, basswood bark loft, greased paper windows, half log benches (flat side up) and the cost of the furniture and all was not to exceed \$25. Holmes organized the first class in Methodism in 1836 (Stewart).

1832--Charles Dale of St. Joseph states that we have the record of two schoolhouses in Champaign County in the year 1832. One was on the west side of the big grove, near Philo, and the other one was in the vicinity of the old Brumly place, near Urbana, the latter being the first schoolhouse as far as we can learn. Claude Thompson was the first teacher of the school near Philo. We cannot find the name of the teacher of the school near Urbana.

1833--St. Joseph--the first school was taught in the home of Moses Argo by John B. Swearingen and Mrs. Joseph Peters (Brink & McDonough).

1833--Sidney--first school taught in the house of William Nox by Andy Stevenson (Brink & McDonough).

1838--Sadorus--The first school was taught in Sadorus Township by James Outen. Henry Sadorus found it cheaper to hire a teacher than to send his boys off to school.

1838--Urbana--The first school in Urbana in 1838, taught by Mr. Parmenter, was in a small log dwelling. At Christmas the teacher was turned out and made to treat on Black Strap--whiskey sweetened with molasses. The boys all got drunk. The next winter a Baptist minister by the name of Standish taught. He was also barred out at Christmas. He mounted a horse and the boys could not catch him until they had mounted horses themselves and covered him up at the bend of the creek when the matter was settled by the teacher furnishing black strap. (Brink & McDonough)

1839--Ogden--Thomas Freeman taught the first school in an old smoke-house.

We have no other specific information on Mahomet schools during the 1850's, not having found any of the old registers for the Country Schools and perhaps the earliest registers for the Mahomet town school were burned in the fire of 1906.

As to schools, in general, for Champaign County during the 1850's--

In the History of Champaign County written and published by Brink McDonough & Company in 1878 is recorded:

1851--Newcomb Township's first school was taught by Martha Newell in Jesse Pancake's old house. (We believe this would have been in the area of the Shiloh Church.)

1855--the Methodists erected a Seminary in Urbana which was subsequently purchased by the School District. Two additions were made to it. It was destroyed by fire in 1871.

1857--There were forty-six schools in the county, twenty seven were in log schoolhouses, the remainder in small frame dwelling houses with the exception of Homer, Urbana and Champaign. The value of the houses in each case was about \$200. each. The houses were low, open and unsightly. The seats were made of slabs or of boards or puncheons with long sticks thrust in them for legs (about like the crude wooden picnic benches). The desks were so high that an average sized pupil could not much more than reach the top with his chin or touch his toes to the floor. Not a school yard was fenced in unless it was in an already fenced in field. The houses were heated with cook stoves or broken stoves.

1857--Scott Township--About the year of 1857 a school was taught in a small house near where S. Koogler now lives. It was taught by Miss Mattie Moore. Messrs. Mallory and Moore built the house themselves.

1858--Christie taught school in a small shanty near Bondville.

In the Historical Calendar 1775-1900 we are told that in 1854 the first schoolhouse in West Urbana was taught by Dr. Shoemaker and the picture looked something like this--not even the usual type of the box school but more like the old type store building. This same information appeared in the December 19, 1910 issue of our Champaign News Gazette. The Gazette also recorded that the little brick was built in 1855, the first schoolhouse west of the Illinois Central Railroad on Randolph between Church and Hill Streets, cost \$4000. and that ten years later additions were made.



The first Teachers Institute met in Urbana in 1857. Thomas R. Leal was our County Superintendent of Schools at that time. An interesting article appeared in the Biographical Sketches of persons in Champaign County--1900 on Mr. Leal which appears in the portion of this book devoted to County Superintendents. Mr. Leal, for whom Leal School in Urbana is named, introduced blackboards into the schools.

Dr. Natlia M. Belting, Assistant Professor of History at the University of Illinois, wrote some interesting facts on Champaign schools in 1850: The Beginnings, Champaign in the 1850's and 1860's --There were three schools in Champaign in 1857. The first school taught in W. Urbana was held in the two-room home of Dr. Shoemaker on E. Main and First Streets. Mrs. Shoemaker held her classes in the front parlor and each pupil furnished his own seat and desk. The second school, also a private one, was taught by Howard Pixley at the home of Joshua Dickerson on the west side. The brick school, the first public school, was in 1855. A high school was later erected on the same site.

Mrs. Fletcher's school in West Urbana was the most famous of the local academies. Started in 1856, the Female Institution struggled through "thick and thin" for two years until it became an established enterprise. The school year consisted of 48 weeks, and in 1858-9 the winter session extended from the first Monday in January to April; the spring session lasted from the first Monday in April to July; the summer session was from the first Monday of July to October, and the fall session began the first Monday in October. Tuition for the primary department for each term was \$4.; the Common English Department, \$5; natural science, higher mathematics, languages, Belles letters, \$6.; ornamental department \$5; and instruction on the guitar, melodeon or piano was \$10. Daughters of townfolk who could afford to pay Mrs. Fletcher entered the primary department where they were taught to spell, read and work sums in their heads, and to bound the countries of the world, as well as to know the Bible. Promoted to the elementary department they had further training in spelling and reading; learned to write, continued their geography and Bible lessons, began a study of English grammar and defining and went on in arithmetic. In the preparatory department, they still had lessons in spelling, reading, writing, geography, Bible, grammar and arithmetic; in addition they were introduced to composition, United States' history, and Watts on The Mind.

Those young ladies who having gone through the first three departments, and not being married, wish to continue their education, entered the collegiate department. During the first year they studied ancient geography, arithmetic, algebra, English, history, composition, natural philosophy, English grammar, comparative physiology and Latin. The second year they studied algebra, geometry, Greek, botany, geology, Roman history, composition, the New Testament in Latin and Greek and zoology. In the third year there was trigonometry, chemistry, astronomy, human physiology, rhetoric, logic, Virgil, philosophy of natural history, the science of government, political economy and Taylor's Manual. At the end of the road, in the fourth year, there was natural science, a review of mathematics and language, intellectual and moral philosophy, natural theology, evidence of Christianity, elements of criticism and Buller's Analogy. There were other subjects taught by Mrs. Fletcher. A girl might learn embroidery, the making of paper, crepe, or worsted flowers, the molding of wax fruits and leather and shell work. Classes were provided in linear, landscape and miniature drawing, pencil and crayon shading, painting on velvet, glass, silk, or paper with monochromatic, messotinto, watercolor, oil or Honfleur colors. At the end of each school term, a public examination and exhibition was held as was the custom in the public schools.

In 1908, Superintendent of Schools, Watts, wrote an article which appeared in the Champaign News Gazette on the schools as of fifty years ago which would have been 1858, so excerpts from his article are being included: At that time there were ninety-one schools in Champaign County. The schools run on the average of seven months a year. One school in Condit Township ran for eleven months and one in Ogden Township ran for four and one-half months. There were sixty-four male and sixty-two female teachers. The average salary for the male teacher was thirty-three dollars and the average salary for the female teacher was twenty dollars. There were 2,256 male students and 1,658 female students. The comment made was that either there were more males than females or else the girls were not considered worthy of being educated. The number of white persons under twenty one years of age is 7,028. The number of children between the ages of five and twenty one is 5,354. The amount received from state funds was \$7,138.26 and from taxes, \$1,296.58. For teachers' salaries, \$12,131.73 was the amount paid altogether. The entire receipts for the school purposes was \$18,893.48 and the expenses were \$16,976.14. The number of schoolhouses was 54 and fourteen had been erected during that year at a cost of \$10,653.60. The Champaign County Teachers Institute was held in Homer for one week, beginning October 4. There were four Instructors and seventy-five attendants. The fund applicable for the purpose were \$64. T. R. Leal, County Education Commissioner was President and the Instructors were Cutcheon, A. W. Freeman and W. I. Gunning.



## CHAPTER VI

### COUNTRY SCHOOLS, IN GENERAL

It is not known exactly when the first Mahomet country schools were established. Different persons believe they came into existence around the years 1850 to 1860. Before reading on the history of these early schools it was only natural to assume that if one could find the date when the land was deeded by some family to the school district that this would represent the beginning of that school district and would probably be the year when the schoolhouse was built. This was not true. Some of our early country schools were established by the neighborhood children meeting together in an old abandoned log cabin that had formerly been someone's home and then later the district and school were established.

There is a reference to the Salem school in Mr. Abbott's autobiography of 1853 but the Martin school is believed to be the first country school rather than Salem. The deed for the land of the Martin School District was given June 10, 1859, according to the Book of Deeds in the Recorder's Office at the Courthouse, but this Deed was not filed until September 5, 1864.

An overall review on the country schools is given, followed up with a complete history of each of the country schools about the town.

Mrs. Adelia Stearns, an octogenarian and teacher at the Martin School 1899-1900, describes the typical country school when she said-- "The country school was a one-room frame schoolhouse, rectangular in shape, with the seats arranged in four rows placed lengthwise of the room and on either side of a pot-bellied stove which was in the center of the room. (Later the stove was moved from the center to the back corner.) The floors were unpainted and undressed which contributed to the noise. The teacher's desk was at the opposite end of the room from the only door. There were no lights other than daylight. There were a few brackets on the sides of the schoolhouse walls which were used for lamps for the few evening activities which were held--box socials, etc. All country schools had outdoor wooden toilets and a coal-cob shed, school yard fenced with wooden fences, each one an acre of ground, almost always given free by the owner for school purposes, and on a road corner."

The schoolhouse was supposed to be arranged so that every child faced the north when studying geography, thus enabling him to always be turned correctly in mentally locating geographical areas, but it was seldom done this way. The author attended Martin School and Harmony, both of which had several windows on the north side of the building and three windows on the south side, and in each case the

child faced the east so that now when she thinks of California it is pictured as being to her left which would be straight north of us, and the same with New York being mentally thought of as being to her right or southeast of her versus west and northeast, respectively.

Most persons who wrote of their memories of the old country schools made comments on the old stove. Edith Shively Wegeng said, "Your face scorched and your feet froze." Frank R. Rayburn reports, "The old egg-shaped stove along about noon would have the chill taken off. The ink bottles froze solid every night. My job was to gather them up and place them under the stove to thaw them out."

Most of these old schools were set on rock foundations versus brick. Mrs. B. Frank Rayburn says, "In the case of Harmony, and it was probably no exception to the rule, there was one wooden floor on top of the other one, probably three, or four floors thick, for the school had been there for so many years." (And don't we all remember that sweeping compound that was sprinkled on the oiled floors to take up a bit of the dust!!!)

The old schools were not surrounded by fences, per Brink and McDonough's volume on Champaign County History, unless in the middle of some field which had been fenced in. Later the schools were all surrounded by stake and rider fences or board fences and with the board fences there was generally a top board that was placed flat. (Was this flat board so the children could seat themselves there?) A picture of the Harmony School appears in the chapter on this school. The picture was taken about 1910 and shows a board fence and stile.

Edith Wegeng reports that Cherry Grove had good drinking water even though oftentimes they had to thaw out the pump. Of course, Cherry Grove was not one of the earliest schools. Mrs. Charles Purnell reports that she and one of the other older girls often went to the Bellinger Homestead (which was the original home of Fielding Scott as pictured in many of our volumes in early Champaign County History) and the two carried back the bucket of water, playing in the ditch on the way both going and returning, and thus wasting quite a bit of time from the pursuit of their studies. B. Frank Rayburn told of how he and Jay Herriott went over to the old Davis Homestead (east of the Harmony School) to get a bucket of water. They played along on the way and killed butterflies in the fall of the year or perhaps threw snowballs (it depended upon the season as to their activities). Once they played so long and then they poured the water on the fence post by the school yard so the teacher would believe they had spilled the water while climbing the fence; then they had to go back to the Davis Home for another bucket full of water for use at the school. Adelia Renfrew Stearns reports--"The teacher furnished a hand wash basin, washcloth, a long crash linen towel (really cotton) on a roller. One bench was the washstand, another for the water bucket and dipper for drinking. The teakettle on the stove top furnished hot water."

At the back of the room or to the side were long benches which were used at the evening community events. The recitation bench was just in

front of the teacher's desk and held as many as six or seven children. (What fun to push a fellow pupil off the end of the bench if the teacher were not looking, for it made for laughter and tee-hees!)

Edith Wegeng comments, "There were the little outhouses ('his' and 'hers') in the opposite corners of the school yard with the usual hieroglyphics and 'art' in profusion on the wall--all done by previous pupils." About 1922 and for the next few years some of the country schools installed a 'kind' of inside toilet.

Adelia Renfrew Stearns writes in her memories as a teacher in the country school, "All new, inexperienced teachers were required to teach in rural schools two years before going to town. The salary of an inexperienced teacher, no matter what the examination grades were, was \$35 per month, and from this she must pay room and board which was usually \$15 per month. The teacher was the school janitor unless a big boy was paid by the teacher to do this work for a part of the time. I paid Charles Purnell \$2 per month to do the janitor work. The duties of the teacher were: build the fires, empty ashes, sweep the room, dust the desk and chairs, pump water from the outside well, and if the well was frozen you must thaw it out, rake yard leaves, bank the fire, lock the doors of the schoolhouse and the coalhouse, and then walk to your boarding house in the rain or snow in dust or mud and perhaps high winds."

Of course, many pupils can remember that always in the spring of the year there was "clean up" day for the school yard. Ombra Lindsey Foster commented that at Harmony School where she attended for a part of her grade school days, "Earl Gulick would always hide when they were going to clean the school yard, and cleaning the school yard was a regular occasion."

Audie Foster Lindsey Ring, one of our country school teachers about 1904-1905, says, "Transportation was rugged, especially after bad weather began and through the spring. It was necessary for teachers to reside in the School District though only six or seven miles from home, and local boy friends were very convenient. We thought nothing of walking one or two miles each way to school."

Adelia Renfrew Stearns writes, "Two other teachers and I took the four o'clock train from Urbana to Mahomet on Sunday afternoon. We were met by the family with whom each of us boarded, or a gentleman friend. In good weather, we left our School District for Urbana on Friday evenings on the evening train or by the gentleman friend in the horse-drawn buggy. The roads were plain country dirt roads. The crudeness there might have been in the Mahomet area was due to lack of transportation then. Mud roads which were impassable many weeks a year isolated people. That meant poor attendance at school, a lack of interest, and absence made it too hard for some pupils to 'catch up' so they quit before the eighth grade, oftentimes."

It seems fitting and proper to insert here an article which appeared in the December 30, 1904 issue of the Mahomet Sucker State, written by a local farmer.



## MAHOMET SUCKER STATE

Mahomet First--Then the balance of the world

Mahomet, Illinois, Friday, December 30, 1904

### SOME HARD ROAD TALK

(Article written by a Mahomet Township Farmer)

Editor Gazette: Yesterday three or four citizens of Mahomet and vicinity circulated a petition, or rather a remonstrance, against hard roads legislation and in less than 5 hours had 140 names on the remonstrance--for such we call it. The legislators are neither lords nor high priests, but are simply men as other men, elected by the people to do the will of the people, and the will of 99 per cent of the people in Central Illinois is that they do not want any hard road legislation.

The people are alive to the fact that there is a move on foot to pass a law to build hard roads in this state. Now who are the prime movers in this? They are the automobile manufacturers, railroad companies, bicycle manufactures and cranks. All manifestly for pecuniary purposes or more plainly greed, or love of money.

They pretend that they want good roads for the benefit of the farmers in getting their grain to market, which is too silly to talk about. The facts are that the farmers get their grain to market much faster than railroads can ship it and it is a common thing everywhere that the elevators are full and farmers have to stop shelling because grain men cannot take their grain.

The facts in the case about hard road legislation briefly stated are about this: The advocates of hard roads are generally acting from motives of greed and the farmers who use the roads ten times as much as any other class don't want anything of the kind for the reason that they are satisfied with the roads as they know a thing or two about the cost of them which would be for good macadamised roads. About \$18,000 per unit, which is more than they can afford for the fine-haired gentry who think they can fool the masses and pass a hard road law under the caption of good road legislation.

Now then in central Illinois, if men of brains, regardless of politics, were elected to the office of road commissioners and the roads were graded in the spring just as soon as conditions would permit, we would have for 9 or 10 months in the year the best of roads. Every city and village in central Illinois should start remonstrances against hard road legislation and thus let our senators and representatives know the wishes of their constituents. The people can never stand the taxation that would follow. A hard road law in addition to a call of \$1,500,000 for the state university and some other millions for state institutions of a necessity, besides about 60 state boards of commissioners which cost the state \$10 to save \$1 in many of them, and at least half of them should be repealed.

It is a lamentable fact that the law makers of Illinois instead of practicing economy as the business man does, seems to enjoy passing laws to create new offices just to give a lot of political sapsuckers an office and a salary which don't amount to anything, only to pay lot of appointees \$1 to save 10 cents. For instance: The pure food commissioner gets an ounce or two of vinegar, takes it to a chemist, the chemist analyses it, gets his pay, everything is lovely and all get a pull; no prosecutions. Instead of all this foolishness a law passed making it a penitentiary offence for adulterating anything would be more sensible and much less expensive. The same is true of the fish commission, game wardens, and dozens of other commissions.

In concluding, the tendency of the times is extravagance in all directions, politically and individually. If, in addition to all our other taxation, we have hard road legislation the land of this country will eventually be owned by the millionaires and the masses will become on a level with the peasantry of foreign countries. Now, then let the people get a move on them and let our law makers know what we want and what we don't want, just as the farmer or business man directs his employees.

--Mahomet Farmer

Mrs. Stearns writes, "There was no money for supplies in those early country schools. The teacher bought the needed supplies, too often, or they did without. Before 1900, the public wasn't as interested in the country children as they should have been. These children drifted along until a vital teacher came along to spur them on in spite of bad roads, parental objection and lack of money."

Lura Abbott Harper writes, "Our home was over a mile from the Martin School and that was quite a long walk for us when we were just little 'tots' so once or twice we boarded the teacher and drove an old horse to school. Dad built a small shed for the horse beside the coal shed." (This was in 1899-1900 but the same horse sheds were still in existence when the author attended this school in 1918-1924, and the author's father also built a shed for her pony, "Snowball" which she rode daily.)

Religion in the school? Mrs. B. Frank Rayburn says, "It was State Law that you could not read the Bible in the school and could not teach religion but for eighteen years I taught school and never missed a day of reading a chapter from the Bible. I made no comments but just read a chapter, and we had no trouble." Mrs. Ona Clapper Hood writes, "We had to recite the Lord's Prayer every morning through grade school before classes started."

Again quoting from Mrs. Stearns, "School began sharply at 9: a.m. There were ten minutes for reading the Bible by the teacher and older pupils in turn. This was followed by singing two songs. The teachers started out the day by expressing an opinion on some religious problem which so affected the children that there were not discipline problems. Thus the children were influenced in this way.

"As to our Methods of Teaching--we of the early day improvised our own methods. No supplies were available for 'sight' such as wall maps, large pictures, ceramic pieces. Even the books of early times had few pictures and just crude printing on coarse paper and were pasteboard bound. I purchased supplies of Rand McNally Company such as a long pointer or ruler, as we called them, for pupils to go to the wall map, point out the place of the day's lesson and interest--talking to the class occasionally to keep their interest on it. Each day a different pupil would preside so all would be included as 'teacher' for the class, thus inspiring them. It worked a miracle then--gave them confidence, and made them feel important and needed. This method was used in Geography and Physiology. I could not have taught the Civil War without such help

"In English, I insisted that pupils write on subjects they knew something about such as corn husking for a sick or injured neighbor, neighborhood parties, hayrack rides, snowmen they made, their personal experiences in harnessing a horse for Dad, milking a cow or goat, descriptions of places where they had been. They would just write of their own experiences and used their natural expressions. It made them forget they disliked Grammar as we called it then.

"In Spelling, we had a written lesson almost every day, alternated with oral spelling. Another day we would have open dictionaries, having pupils write words in divided syllables and marks. This way it taught the use of the dictionary, kept up the interest to excel over their classmates. Another way? Each week I would appoint a spelling teacher for the week. The Spelling Bees would add interest.

"In Reading--each pupil came to the front of the class, held the book in a natural and easy way for each of them (I had no set way as some teachers required). The student would first tell the others what the Reading lesson was about, often pointing to the map on the wall to stimulate interest and to locate the scene. Thus each one was ready and anxious to make a remark. Besides the necessary Fifth Reader which was a difficult book by Anderson, we read three other Readers that school year. Anderson's book was used versus Appleton's or McGuffey's.

"My school children asked for a half-hour noon recess so they could teach school with me.

"In Arithmetic--all problems were worked on the blackboard on two sides of the room. Definitions were written there or recited as the spirit of the class lead us. Arithmetic matches were often held on Friday afternoons and the students learned to work accurately and rapidly in order to win.

"In Music, staves were drawn on the blackboard by each one, the clef was placed correctly and the notes were placed for our National songs (all of them) as well as other familiar songs--School Days, Nearer my God to Thee, Dixie Land, etc. That way they learned the mechanics of music and the songs. All and each could sing--sometimes alone and sometimes as duets, trios and a chorus, and we always had Charlie Purnell's bass and plenty of sopranos."

Quoting from Mr. Shawhan's article in the Newspaper, "The Herald" which was pasted in the book on County Final Exams 1886-1887, which book is now in the office of the County Superintendent of School's office, "A little criticism should be made on a great deal of the work. It is not done carefully. Our country boys and girls seem to know as much about the studies as the pupils from the grade schools and when they try to do their best can write as well, or in many cases even better but as a general rule they do not hold up as well."

There was another article by Mr. Shawhan concerning his desire for the country school teachers to send exhibits to the Chicago Exposition-- "A great desire is manifested to see the work of the country schools.... Can our country schools teach children to read, to write, and to make plain figures?... (Mr. Shawhan proceeds in the article to request that the teachers send in exhibits of some of the pupil's work-- ) Lessons in reading presenting questions on the reading lessons asked and answered by the child, a few stanzas of poetry committed and written from memory, a neat arrangement of examples in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division and in all the arithmetic would go to show that we are really trying to do something.... When you get a nice paper, lay it aside for the exposition."

Mr. Shawhan was merely voicing the opinion of many persons at the time for these people felt the country schools were not set up to teach the children adequately and also they questioned if the country child actually had the ability.

Pasted in the same book with Mr. Shawhan's articles was one written by S. A. Harrison, a teacher at one time in our Mahomet Grade School on "How to Learn." "Learn to do by doing. This is all right as far as it goes.... The training of the body is not to be despised but the training of the intellect and the soul is of vastly more importance.... Manual Training-- the only objection which we have of that is that it would have a tendency to swell the already too great army of young men that are leaving the farms and rushing into the hot sweltering, sin-crushed cities and the 'maddening throngs in noble strife.'...."

"The child of three, having been told by its sister the names of twenty or more animals from the pictures of Steel's Zoology, after a lapse of several weeks, was able to remember two thirds of the names.... The child learns from sight. The child should not be required to stay in his seat from 9: until 4: but let him be free to move around. There should be long tables around which they may stand while they study their arithmetic by means of counters such as splints, pebbles, toothpicks."

Many of the country schools had a summer term of school for two or three months. The teacher for the summer term might not be the same one who had taught during the regular six or seven months of school.

We must not pass on without a comment on the school library. The books were not many but the few there were were tattered and torn from hard use down through the ages. I am sure that each of you will remember some favorite book in the old library. Can I forget Martin's Library of "The Pixie in the House," "The Little Maid of Narragansett Bay," or Bird's "Christmas Carol"?

Everyone carried his lunch bucket to school; it ranged from an empty Karo syrup bucket to fancier dinner pails with a separate tray in the top for pie or cake. Maymee Taylor Clark tells that when Dora Cochran was teaching the summer term of Salem school and she was a pupil, Miss Cochran brought her lunch to school in a basket and she had her own home-grown strawberries and lettuce and Mrs. Clark's comment was, "And I had not learned to eat lettuce yet in those early years."

Mrs. Ona Clapper Hood told of LeAnna Phillip's lunch bucket which always contained sorghum cookies which were baked quite thick and when LeAnna took the lid from that bucket one could always smell those cookies. Mrs. Oscar Dale, Sr. always baked ginger cookies. It seemed that her son, "Budge" (Oscar Jr.) got tired of those cookies and asked that no more be put in his lunch, or at least not many, but one day "Budge's" request was for several. His Mother could not understand his sudden interest in ginger cookies. His answer was, "Oh Mom, you can trade 'em for anything." Yes, trading items from the lunch bucket was frequent.

Of course, we know that even in 1962 the trading of school lunches in the best of our modern school cafeterias, with well-planned lunch programs, is rampant. The Mother sends her child to the school cafeteria, satisfied that the child's meal has been a well-balanced one of ham, sweet potatoes, beans, rolls and raisin bars (the cafeteria's menu for that day), but that night, upon close investigation, she finds the child had traded off all but his roll and butter and his noon meal had consisted of six rolls and six pats of butter. Or the child may trade his piece of chocolate cake for the loan of a baseball mitt; or he may trade his tuna casserole for a grasshopper in a glass jar. Then we have the story of the small girl who traded off her cake for three hard cookies and then traded off the cookies to a young male friend who would be willing to escort her home. One young chap insisted that the finest way to get acquainted in a new neighborhood was by taking extra potato chips for noon trading. The dealing in our cafeteriums, unless under careful supervision, makes the New York Stock Exchange look tame.

Edith Shively Wegeng said, "Our lunches were packed in little tin buckets and most pupils had nourishing food and always apples and cookies for the recess periods. The author can well remember the Neil Welch children's dinner buckets which always had big baking powder biscuits with a nice piece of ham or pork tenderloin in that sandwich and then the plain unsugared doughnuts or sugar cookies. The Fred Taylor children always had sugar cookies with a raisin in the center. Of course, "Miss Ferne" always had the biggest banana in her lunch (coming out from town) and she seemed most willing to trade us her banana for a piece of homemade devil's-food cake (and this was before the days of a box mix cake.)

In the mid-twenties there was an attempt to have a hot lunch program in the country schools. This meant that an oil stove was supplied and one large kettle of something hot that could be prepared simply was fixed for the students. Navy bean soup, sauerkraut and weiners,



vegetable soup and other similar dishes were prepared and served as a supplement to the child's cold lunch.

The family dog of most of the children accompanied the "kids" to school each day. The pupils in Martin from about 1912 to 1922 (from the time the oldest Welch child started to Martin until the youngest one graduated) remember the old "off-breed" collie, "Bowser" that belonged to the Welch family and how that dog never missed a day of school. The students at Harmony were once told by the teacher to leave their dogs at home but said one young chap, Calvin Rayburn, (in an undertone) "And I'll bring my dog in the morning." The pupils were not always too respectful to the teacher.

As to discipline--Adelia Renfrew Stearns comments, "A teacher was hired in a country school if the Board thought she could handle the big boys who would start in after corn husking was over and quit the following March to begin spring farming. The Board members said if they had to pay the teacher a salary of \$50 then they would hire a man, and Grant Burgner was the one who straightened them out at Harmony."

Harry Boyer, an early teacher at Martin, says, "Discipline seemed a major problem in this school and I was hired with the feeling a man could handle it." Our Country Superintendent of Schools for Champaign County, Mr. Harshbarger, told of how the big boys would smoke the teacher out by climbing on the roof and putting a board over the chimney, thus causing the schoolhouse to become quickly filled with smoke. However, most of the antics of the pupils were such that they might be called pranks versus misdemeanors. Lura Abbott Harper told of how Charles Purnell liked to tease a lady teacher by hiding his geography book and when classtime came, it was no where to be found. Another prank of Charles Purnell's was that of sticking his pencil up in the long blonde curl of the girl seated in front of him(whose curls were always "swishing" across his desk top) and then poking pencil and curl down into the ink well.

A big event in the school was the Spelling Bee, described in detail by Mrs. Stearns. "Spelling Bees in and around Mahomet, moreso than in Urbana, were really the most enjoyed contest of all. Mr. Davis, Mahomet's eighth grade teacher, and Florence Anderson, the teacher of the third and fourth grades in Mahomet, were the graders, and Maude Lawhead, Miss Pearl Williamson and Adelia Renfrew Stearns conducted the contest. They had two classes of spellers on the same program--the sixth and seventh graders were first. Miss Williamson, later residing in Urbana as Mrs. Heeb, pronounced the words to spell to this group. Miss Lawhead, who was teaching at that time at Cherry Grove, pronounced the words for the seventh graders. The pupils stood in a row across the front of the room. They were expected to spell immediately after the word was pronounced. If one failed to spell correctly, he went to the foot of the class and then the next pupil tried it, and so on.

"Not many pupils failed and all were anxious to excel. The School Districts competed against each other and first one District won and then another. Tension was high but not tempers because funny things did happen. Maude Peterson did not mind when everyone laughed at the way she spelled 'Europe.' Maude was so happy her turn had come and was

all smiles and ready. She couldn't spell the word correctly but she tried. She began, 'U-u-rip-rip-Urip.' The crowd roared. Mr. Davis gave out the words for the eighth graders to spell that would not be hardly fair today, such as:--hyssop, dialectic, Sebastian, ptolemy, ptarmigan, chloroform, idiosyncrasy, plenipotentiary, martyrize, paleontology, etc." The author's memory on spelling bees was the word Charivari and now today in the modern dictionary we find it spelled different ways--shivaree or charivari

Some persons learned penmanship by their practice sessions at the blackboard. Did you live in the days of the slates? They had the single slates and the double ones. Erasers? No, a rag and a little "spit" did wonders. Slate pencils were used and not chalk and "If you had a long pencil," quoting Mrs. Charles Purnell, "it had a United States flag wrapped around it; but it would not last long for it would roll out of your desk and break in a dozen pieces, then there was profound disappointment--your heart was just broken, that was all."

Did you attend school when two of you sat together and studied from the same book?

Then we do remember the Story Hours conducted by the teacher for the smaller children which gave us older ones a chance to hear the stories told to the children once again.

In the country schools you almost had to learn the material by the time you had gone through the eighth grades for you had a repeat of it yearly as you listened to the pupils in the other classes recite and it was really more interesting to listen to the others recite than to do your own studying or reciting.

All children had "markers" (folded papers that were placed under the line of reading in the first grade to enable you to follow the lines). And what subjects did you have in your first grade? Ruth Frankenburger Yount's first-grade report card showed grades given in grammar as well as arithmetic, reading and deportment. Then the "drive" there was to earn a star behind your name whether it was for washing your teeth or not being absent or for making "100" in Spelling.

Country Schools? It was a privilege to be classed as a pupil from a country school for Mrs. Stearns expressed it well when she said that out of a crude beginning our County fostered ideas for higher education that placed it in the high of excellence it is today. And one of the best means of checking on the work of the pupils in the country school and the quality of work done by these country school teachers were revealed in how well the pupils did in high school when competing with the town children and more often than not the country pupils excelled and never were they at the bottom of the class.

"A teacher must lead, direct, understand, stimulate a personal goal, see that the child does good reading, chooses proper friends, encourages a religious faith, and be one's self. Youth is still to be taught by 'dedicated' teachers and not necessarily overeducated ones. A natural aptitude for teaching builds up more than an advanced degree," says Mrs. Stearns.



## CHAPTER VII

### THE MARTIN SCHOOL

A history of each of the country schools that surrounded the Town of Mahomet is being given and in the order that it is believed they came into existence.

The Martin School located approximately three miles southwest of Mahomet on what is today termed the Spring Lake Road.



Martin Schoolhouse (Louise Purnell Jones at the door)

MARTIN SCHOOL, District 30, originally District 4, Section 20, Township 20 (Mahomet), Range 7. The Record of the Deed for this school is in the Recorder's Office, Book x, page 639, P. 5--June 10, 1859. Elijah Myers (only his mark) and Elizabeth Myers to Moses H. Wright, Joseph S. Martin, and James W. Knox, Trustees of District 4, Township 20--1/2 acre, filed September 5, 1864.

Lee Dale of Skiatook, Oklahoma, who has lived some ninety years, writes, "The Martin School was established long before I was born. However, I can recall some of the stories my mother related as she was a pupil of that school. I think that school was one of the first in that locality, before the name Middletown was changed to Mahomet. The school was located almost one and one-half miles west of the Mead Homestead on the opposite side of the Sangamon River from the Mead home. (The Mead home was where the

present Dale Homestead is and the Meads are the ancestors of the Dale family, Mrs. Dale being a Mead.) For the children's convenience they used a footlog; at other times, when the water was low, they took off their shoes and waded across the river. That was getting an education under difficulties.

"My Mother must have got a fairly good education for that day and date as she could read and relate tales and incidents in a captivating and fascinating manner. One story I remember was at the beginning of a school term when a new teacher was endeavoring to list the names of the pupils. This pupil gave his name--Archibold Thomas Evandever Mackever Myers. This was the boy they all knew as the common everyday lad, 'Mack' Myers, and I imagine this incident caused a lot of 'giggles' and no doubt some time elapsed before order was restored. The Myers family resided not far from the school. 'Mack's' wife, Sally Myers, in later years roved the woods gathering fallen limbs and sticks for heating. She had pile after pile scattered over the woods. When asked about what she was doing, her answer was, 'Dust-is just pickin' up sticks for winter.' That was the extent of her conversation--she never elaborated." (It probably was "Mack's" parents who gave the land for the building of the Martin School.)

"Bill" Johnston, one of our Mahomet residents and one who has also lived some ninety years, said that "Mack" Myers lived in the house which was just south of the Martin School and on the west side of the road. This house was still standing when the author was a pupil at Martin and we were told that we could not go down to the "old black house." Once we went though and then were whipped for not minding the teacher's orders. That is all of us were whipped but the one girl who claimed she had not been at school on the day the announcement was made so "got by." There are many of us who remember well the old Myers Homestead.

We have been unable to find a Register from any of the country schools except one from Salem in late years so we have no record of pupils who may have attended, nor of teachers for these earliest days.

Mrs. Eliza Knox Davis, who is ninety six years of age and is still living in our community, was one of the early pupils at Martin. Mrs. Davis relates that Rose Pfiester Wright attended Martin at the same time she did and that a John Montgomery and also Bert (H.J.) Morehouse were two of their early teachers. Mrs. Charlotte Purnell Busey said that Mrs. Wade was the first teacher of her father, Frank Purnell, when he was six years of age and a pupil at Martin. Miss Julia Ware and Nate Wiles were teachers at Martin prior to 1896, according to Mrs. Adelia Renfrew Stearns. Mrs. Lura Abbott Harper states that Mr. Fred Bowditch was one of her early teachers. In the office of the County Superintendent of Schools at the Courthouse we do find a recording of the teachers for 1887--1888 at which time Charles Thomas was the teacher at Martin School. Then we find no records until 1896-1897 when Lizzie Collier was Martin's teacher.

For two years, 1897-1899, Harry Boyer is listed as the teacher. We did hear from Mr. Boyer when his wife wrote us just before his death--"Harry's salary the first year was \$18 per month and the second it was \$20 per month. The directors for the first year of his teaching were Joshua

Smith, who lived in the house straight west of the Martin school and up in a field, (and in the Volume, Biographical Sketches--1900, we find that Joshua Smith was born in 1837 and for twenty-four years was a member of the Board of Education,), William Stearns, who lived on the west side of the road across from what is now Spring Lake, and John Abbott who lived on what is still known as the Abbott Farm. Mr. Boyer's students were the Abbott children, Nesbitts, Bert Waters and others whose names he did not recall. Mr. Boyer taught all the grades plus the high school work which was taught at the morning and afternoon recess time and during the noon hour to enable Bert Waters, the only high school student, to enter Union Christian College at Marion, Indiana, which he did, and then, of course, later taught in some of our Mahomet Township schools. Mr. Boyer roomed and boarded at the William Caldwell home the first year and with the Nesbitts (who lived on the old Silas Purnell Homestead) the second year."

Mrs. Adelia Renfrew Stearns, whom we have quoted in the information on country schools, in general, as well as in other chapters on county exams, teachers institutes, etc., taught at Martin for one year of 1899-1900. She states that her School Board Members were Charles Nesbitt, William Stearns, and John Abbott and lists her pupils as being Florence Fosnaugh, who lived with Belle Brown at the 'Josh' Smith home, Lura, Carl and Amy Abbott, Clayton Johnson, Art Johnson, Helen Maxwell, whose parents were both mutes, Cecil Cook, one of the Hood boys, Nina and Laura Nesbitt, Charles Purnell (father of the author) and three other children whom she could not recall by name. Mr. Purnell took the County Final Examination that year and ranked one out of the Class of eighteen hundred in the County. This record has been verified at the Office of the County Superintendent of School's Office.



Pupils at Martin School -- 1901

Top row, left to right, Helen Maxwell, Nina Nesbitt, Charles Purnell, Lura Abbott

Middle row--Hattie Davis, teacher, Frank Hood, Goldie Cochrun, Carl Abbott

Bottom row--Charles Cochrun, Laura Nesbitt, Amy Abbott, Vance Hood, Glenn Hood, Eilo Cochrun

Lura Abbott Harper writes, "When I was a student at Martin the terms were eight months long and once or twice we had summer terms. The school-house was rather close to the Sangamon River and we had lots of fun at noon skating or sliding in the winter and picking wild flowers in the spring. We also used to cut across the field and through Mr. Nesbitt's apple orchard. I can remember yet how good those big Northern Spy apples were. In the fall, most of the country schools held box suppers which were quite exciting and often drew crowds from neighboring schools."

For other teachers and the years they taught, see the later chapter which is devoted completely to this kind of information.



Pupils at Martin School -- 1896

Reading left to right -- Teacher, Elizabeth Collier, Lura Abbott, Birdie Hughes, Helen Maxwell, Florence Fasnough, Maude Richards, Nina Nesbitt

Front row -- Carl Abbott and Albert Hall

(Picture was taken on the north side of the school and shows the coal and cob house in the back)



Amy Abbott Shertiger writes, "Then my fifth year of teaching was at Martin which was neighbor children and I loved every one of them. However, I felt I did not do justice to any of them as I had every grade (1-8) including first-year high school (my high-school student being Bernice Sweet Irle) and that year they decided to have seven months of school instead of eight."

Oftentimes a teacher does not realize the lasting impression made on her pupils. Louise Purnell Jones always recalls Amy Abbott Shertiger, her third grade teacher, keeping her in at recess to learn a poem, even though Amy writes, "That was the year Louise was in the third grade. She was a sweet little girl--always so good and quiet." Louise also tells of the requirement of her second grade teacher, Ferne Dale, that the pupils must repeat the Lord's Prayer each morning.

Not only did the author's grandfather, S. J. Purnell, and her father, Charles S. Purnell, attend Martin but so did she and her two sisters, Mrs. Louise Purnell Jones and Mrs. Mary Purnell Seward. Many wonderful memories are held of the one-room country school, Martin.

Speaking from my own experience--I started in the first grade when only five years of age which is not good now and it was not good then for I was too immature. The teacher, "Miss Ferne" (and it will always be "Miss Ferne" to her many, many students, although she is now Mrs. Charles Carter--Ferne Hood Carter) -- was the ideal one with all of us I am sure. I had wanted to start to school because my older sister was attending and since Louise had done well and because "Miss Ferne" wanted me to start in to school, Mother permitted me to go. I started, but having been only five years of age near the end of May before starting to school in September--the only thing I learned before Christmas was to draw or color and cut out pictures (and such fantastic drawings!!)

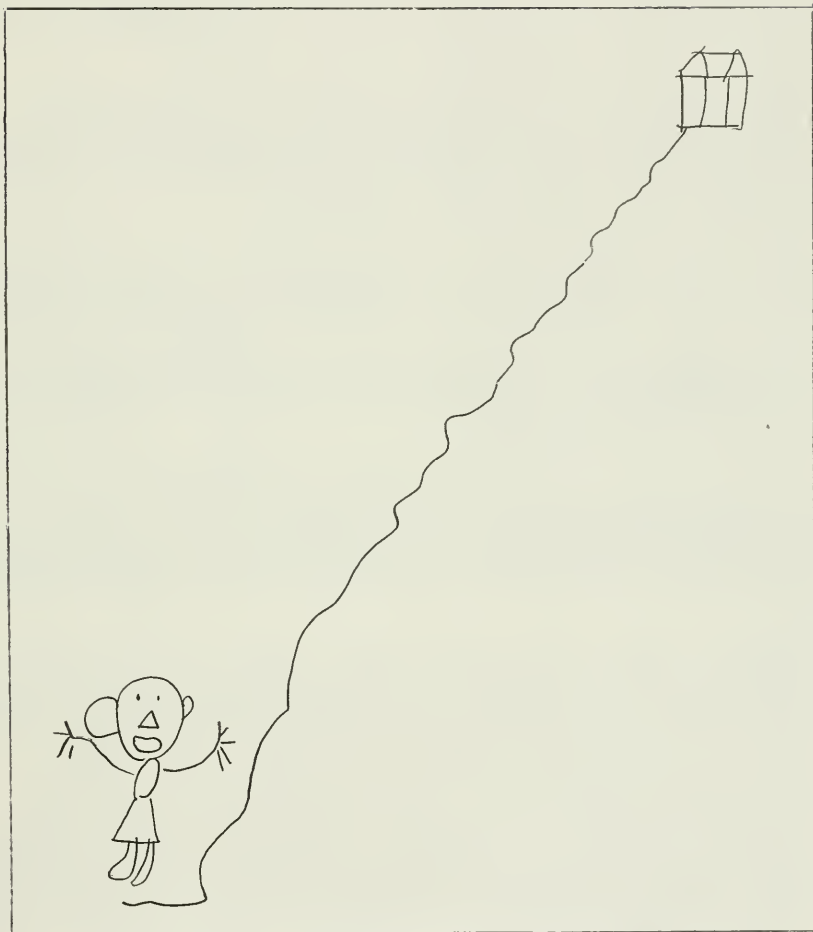
I am not sure if I progressed too rapidly after Christmas. At any rate, I never achieved my sister's record of reading through three Primers in six weeks' time in the spring under her teacher, Miss Rooth. I am not sure I even learned to sit too quietly, and what were my grades in deportment? But I did start to Martin at the age of five, and I did have "Miss Ferne" (Pictured at the right) as my teacher, and I did love her and I was counted as one of the Martin school children.



"Miss Ferne" -- Ferne Hood Carter (Martin School)

We had Bender's Primer with the first page picturing the pretty little girl with her broad-brimmed hat in the meadow and beneath were the words: "Good morning to you, Good morning to you, Good morning, Good morning, Good morning to you."

Below is one drawing of the author at age six when the request was made by the teacher for "A Landscape."



Artist, Age six, September 16, 1918

Miss Marie Lindsey was my teacher in the second grade; she roomed at our house. This was the year of the horrible flu epidemic. There were so many deaths that my mother and father sang for eight funerals in ten days' time. Shall I ever forget when both Marie and my father were so ill with the flu and my mother did the farm chores and managed the household!!! Nothing tasted good to the patients. Mother whipped some cream and froze it outside in a snowdrift. (We had no deep freezers in

those days and thus did not have the luxury of ice cream too often but frozen whipped cream came close to it.) That evening we were all looking forward to the delicacy of the whipped cream for our evening meal but that seemed to be the one thing the two patients too wanted and it tasted so good and they "could eat some more" so we did not get any.

Louise Purnell Jones writes, "Marie Lindsey was my teacher when I was in the fifth grade. Marie boarded at our house and that first Sunday night when she rode home with us from church she was wearing a yellow dress. Marie threatened to whip Jessie Taylor Warner and me if we didn't get our arithmetic which was a paving problem. We got it.

"Marie took the Register home with her (when they lived in the old Lindsey home, which house was torn down recently and replaced with a new modern brick, built by Fred Thompson.) She worked on the big book, opened out on the bed. How I always wanted to look in the Register where they recorded those grades at the end of the year." (And to think that none of these prized Rigisters can be located in 1962! Was everyone foolish enough to burn them or has someone selfishly taken the Register (or Registers) home and hidden them in some attic?)

The pupils at Martin these years were the Frank Sweet girls, Neil Welch's six children, Fred Taylor's five children, Carl Abbott's one daughter, Pat McLaughlin's three boys, L. P. Brackemyre's five children, Roy and Willard Brown, Harold and Leona Cole, the Coy Cole's three children, the Charles Warren's three children and others who were in and out for short periods of time as Marie Allen, Helen Edwards, Mary Nesbitt, the Eddings, etc.

After Marie Lindsey's one year of teaching, "Miss Ferne" returned to Martin and taught for the next five years, then she was off again for two years, and then back for one more year of teaching, giving her a total of seven years of teaching at Martin School. I had "Miss Ferne" for six years so you can see why she was a big influence in my life. We moved away from the Martin School District and into the Harmony District when I was in the seventh grade and this gave me the opportunity of attending the old school where my mother, all of her brothers and sisters, and my Grandfather, R. G. Rayburn, had attended school. As Louise Purnell Jones writes--"Just think what the 'kids' miss today who have forty teachers in grade school and no teacher knows the 'kids' and no 'kids' know the teachers as we did and as Dad did."

School always started on Labor Day. Can we ever forget the feeling you had when you went into the Town of Mahomet on the afternoon of Labor Day to purchase all your books needed for the next year? Of course, there was just the one store that kept all the books--Carson's Drug Store. However, if you could find a neighbor with a book you bought from him, but occasionally the books changed and new ones had to be purchased and the trip to Mahomet was made. Then you also had to have crayons (the red one



was soon used up and gone and the black and purple lasted for the year-- never could understand why the crayola companies did not make two red crayons), the pencil pads (the author's parents found their daughters, especially "yours truly," scribbled a bit on one sheet and threw it away so the large 8 1/2 x 11 pads were never bought but the smaller ones) pencils, and other supplies.

Of course, going to the village in these days was almost an occasion. Next to Carson's Drug Store was Rea's Dry Goods Store where the purchases you may have made from the owner who was wearing a black satteen apron and had his small scissors, for the cutting of material, attached to his belt with a string, wrapped up the merchandise in newspapers. Then if you had fifty cents to spend for candy you made a store-to-store canvass so your money was invested wisely on Jahr's or Young's peppermints or chocolate peanut clusters or --. And if "Papa" had gone to town on business he always brought home a sack of candy, then after the evening meal he would request one of this daughters to go see what was in his "duck coat" pocket. Then the candy was "parceled out" evenly after the evening meal.

It was even later that the Pastime Theatre came into existence and if you were in the town at night you would walk slowly by the theatre so that you might see as much of the "silent" movie which was pictured on the screen as was possible and hear Zuma Gilert as she "dramatically" played the piano in keeping with the pictures being shown.

Groceries were often ordered by mail from Montgomery Ward and Company and what a surprise to find a toy dish had been ordered along with the needed groceries. And these were the days of "dreaming of Christmas" through the catalogs.

I want to list just some few of the pleasant memories that I have about Martin and all our ups and downs only because I believe that your reading of my memories and the comments will stir up a bit of nostalgia within your mind and bring back some clear thoughts of similar incidents at your own one-room school or even at your town school. At least, I am sure my fellow Martin schoolmates will recall the pictures most vividly.

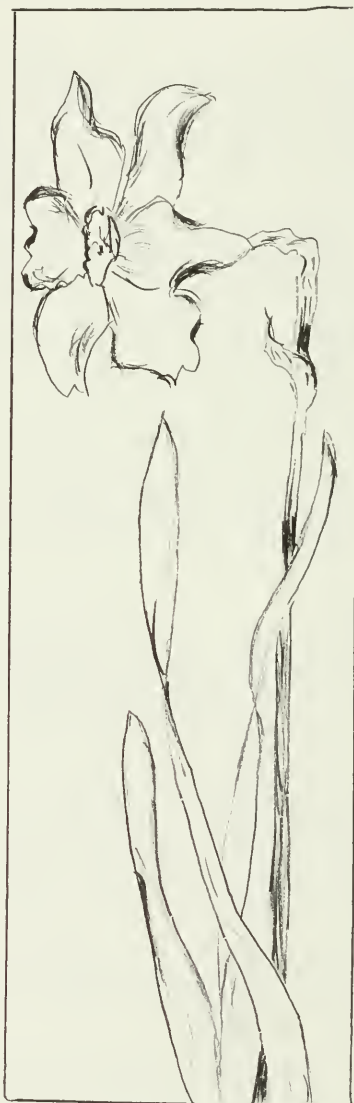
Textbooks used: The geography book used by Charles Purnell (1899-1900) was Barnse's "Complete Geography." Anderson's as well as McGuffey's Readers were used. Then during the next generation the Bender's Series of Readers were used--The Bender Primer and the Graded Literature Readers by Judson and Bender. Other books--the Primary Number Book by Lyons and Carnahan; School History of the United States by Hart; Steps in English by McLean, Blaisdell and Morrow; Essentials in Arithmetic by Wentworth and Smith; Orthography by Elmer Cavins; Essentials of Geography; Health Habits; Spelling; Practical Drawing--Modern Arts Course, Book 4 or Book 3 or--; Penmanship. The Bender's Series of Readers was followed by the Young and Field Literary Readers.

Penmanship would be writing lessons of sayings such as "Honesty is the best policy," etc. The Palmer Method came into use in the thirties. We all remember our efforts and struggles with drawing--the milkweed pod, the petunia, the narcissus, the anemone, the baby chick, or something

similar that we worked on daily in preparation for the Final Exam! Then from the third grade book we drew the railroad track, showing perspective. Drawing was the first period after lunch, as was penmanship--if we had time for it. We did not always have time for writing (penmanship) and drawing (art).



Milkweed Pod



Narcissus

Occasionally we had gymnastics. Sometimes we had our exercises while standing beside our seats such as "1-2-3-4--arms extended out, then back to your shoulders, then extended up above your head and thence back to your shoulders"; or it might be that you had your hands on your hips and your arms akimbo as you would jump up and down and then with your feet apart and back together. We exercised and we did have gymnastics!! We did not have showers and a gymnasium but we probably did not need exercising then as the child does today for there were home chores to do such as gathering in the cobs, wood, eggs, etc. In the warmer months, the gymnastics were held out in the school yard.

The different schools in the township competed in athletics. When Louise Purnell (Jones) was a pupil, the track meet was held in Mahomet. Louise entered in the fifty-yard dash. Practice sessions were from telephone pole to telephone pole along the dusty country road. Another event in which Louise participated was broad jump and one of the persons against whom she competed was Hattie Pittman. Those of you who remember her competitor will agree that no attention was paid to the size of competitors.

Valentine's Day was almost as important as Christmas for we started early MAKING a valentine for each one of the other pupils in the school and a special "bought" one (maybe) for the teacher. From year to year you knew the shape of the valentines that would come from certain students and you always recognized the family's left-over wallpaper and some of that paper took all the family's children through their eight grades. A few of the students could do some fancy art work such as Elmer Welch's and Philip McLaughin's cartoons of "Andy Gump" and "Jiggs" or "Bringing Up Father." The number of bought valentines were few and if they were bought they were probably twenty for a nickel and certainly not the current prices.

Singing? Yes, Musical Gems was the book used and we knew the page numbers and all the words as the pump organ was played.

No. 44--Sweet Little Rosebud so rich and rare  
Never a flower was seen more fair  
Kissed by the sunshine, carressed by dew--etc.

No. 26--Birds are singing, Tra, la, la, la, la  
As we march along  
Bells are ringing, Tra, la, la, la, la  
Listen to their song.

Chorus: Tra, la, la, la, la, etc.

No. 126 Tarry with me, Oh my Savior

No. 99 'Tis the Old School Bell a Ringing

Box Suppers? Pie Socials? What fun to decorate the box! Then there were contests conducted such as awarding a prize to the "spooniest couple" etc. Louise Purnell (Jones) well remembers when her box was all filled

and decorated (when she was in the third grade). One of the men in the community bought it and then he brought in his entire family to help eat the food he had purchased, so poor Louise got what the little boy shot at--practically nothing. The Box Suppers really held more thrill and excitement for the older girls who were the "Belles" of the community and who hoped that some good-looking young men would run up the price of their box.

One year we had a Maypole Dance. Everything went fine for a while and then everyone, seemingly, got his pink or green crepe paper streamer mixed and intertwined with the other. A mess! But fun and colorful and something to bring a good laugh as we "remember back."

School romances? Louise Purnell (Jones), age nine, had to return all the things her young suitor had stolen from his mother as gifts to her--glass vases, pearl handled pens etc. Then Isabelle and Harold--"If you love me--"

The Annual? One year we put out a regular school annual at Martin with rhymes, pictures and everything. I am sure it was a headache for the teacher but fun for the pupils and it made a good keepsake. Excerpts:

SCHOOL POEM --By Earl Tacket

Good-bye, good-bye, to Martin days  
For those days are nearly done,  
The fields smiling grimly,  
Hot breezes in the sun.  
Our English now is silent  
Our Science flown away  
But the old schools here  
In its coat of white,  
And little hall so gay;  
Oh Martin, Martin,  
Oh Martin dear,  
What will your 8th grade pupils do  
At the starting of next year?  
Good, bad, poor, and fair  
Our grades come down in hosts  
They caused us once to work so hard  
But now, they've turned to post  
The school yard is deserted,  
The pupils gone away,  
But Martin there in coat of white  
And hall and trees so gay  
Oh! Martin, Martin,  
Oh! Martin dear  
What will your 8th grade pupils do  
At the starting of next year?

### CAN YOU IMAGINE:

Isabelle sad (Purnell)  
Opal a woman of 200 lbs. (Welch)  
Robert winning broad jump (Stamp)  
Henry with a bald head (Eddings)  
Stanley without a girl (Cole)  
Paul not in mischief (Cole)  
Aleen without a smile (Stamp)  
"Skinney" Tackett with an idle moment (Tackett)  
June without her lesson (Welch)  
Mary not falling down (Purnell)  
George getting through exams first (Brackemyre)  
Lulu winning a foot race (Taylor)  
Roy whispering in school (May)

### WE WONDER WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF:

Paul couldn't play with Ruth's hair (Paul Cole and Ruth Abbott)  
Isabelle couldn't ride a pony (Isabelle Purnell)  
George took to getting arithmetic (George Brackemyre)

The Last Day of School Picnic. What an occasion! There was much food but no fried chicken ever appeared on a picnic table before the Fourth of July. There were some bananas (still a real treat) and plenty of pies and cakes. Everyone was present.

We also had arithmetic contests on Friday afternoons where three or four of us went to the blackboard and added long columns of figures or did division or multiplication and the object was to see who could do it correctly first. This must have been a real learning experience for today my friends ask why I can add so rapidly and they call me the "human calculator"--just country school learnin' and those good mathematics' contests of years back.

Oh Me!! Did you have to stand at the blackboard with your hands above your head and your hands as well as your nose placed in rings drawn on the blackboard? Mary Kemp did (and so did I). Or perhaps it was staying in at recess. Such punishments!!! Of course, our first acquaintance with Mary was before she was old enough to come to school but would run off from her home, which was nearby, and her mother would come after her with her dishcloth.

Then there was the Christmas tree and program at Martin. Isn't it fun to remember back? That Christmas program!!! The schoolhouse was decorated with red and green streamers going from the corners of the room and crossing in the center. We practiced and practiced so everyone knew his lines. When the day of the program finally arrived all went to school that morning dressed in our best clothes for the occasion started about 1:30 or 2:00 in the afternoon, right after our lunch.



Once I was dressed in a white middy blouse with a blue collar and white stars in the corner of the collar (of course, a hand-me-down" from my cousin, Mary Dale) but I felt so big and was so excited. We were all ready for the guests to arrive and were seated on the bench in front of the north windows playing "thumb stock" when I saw our carriage just coming in sight--in front of where Wilson Miller was living at that time (the old Purnell Homestead, or where the Nesbitts lived during that next generation) and silly me! I dashed out of that schoolhouse and turned that corner north (and you know how slick that gravel can get) and down I went!! And there was my clean middy blouse all muddy and the performance so near at hand. Funny thing too for I had just seen my folks that morning, and true that Uncle Frank and Aunt Lou Taylor would be with them, but couldn't I wait until they came that last half mile?

Our improvised stage consisted of a wire stretched across the front of the schoolroom, with bed sheets over the wire. We drew the curtains, put on real plays and sang songs as a group with Louise Purnell playing the organ and once Louise played a violin solo. We gave our recitations and our dialogues. Wonderful memories!!!

Then after the program we exchanged our gifts. The names had been drawn some three or four weeks before and the name we drew was to be kept a secret but it never remained a secret very long, did it? Then we gave our teacher her gift and it was not a surprise either I am sure. Of course, we had met behind the schoolhouse and had planned on what we would get her and that each person was to bring his nickel or dime and that so and so would be going to town (all the way into Champaign) and she would buy it for us. One year we got "Miss Ferne" a comb for her hair and another year we got her an ivory comb for her dresser, and then sometimes we would not go together for the teacher's present but would give her something individually--like perhaps a handkerchief. (Were you ever a teacher? If you were, you have enough handkerchiefs to last you a lifetime, I am sure, but you enjoy getting them and they bring lovely memories when you carry them.) Then the teacher gave each of us a sack of candy. Of course, there was the Christmas tree at the front of the room decorated with popcorn and cranberries (which we had helped to string) and rings made of construction paper, and those things that make a tree so beautiful. There were no electric lights and no big balls and ornaments but the tree was BEAUTIFUL! Excitement reigned!

At the Christmas program, awards were given pupils who had made the most headmarks (perfect daily grades) in spelling during the first four months of the school year. A cheap mechanical pencil was often the prize.

Other lesser events occurred like the time that we were playing and Philip McLaughlin broke his leg. This happened in that hollow in back of the schoolhouse while practicing for the track meet and the teacher's desk was turned into an operating table and Dr. J. O. Pearman, Mahomet's well-known local doctor, set Philip's broken bone without aid of anaesthesia.

Then there were the "ups" and "downs" of walking to school. We always cut off that last corner to go through Nesbitt's pasture for there was a stile by their house and one by the schoolhouse--made special for

the convenience of the pupils to "cut." The generation of students back of us had done the same thing. But Wilson Miller moved into the community and into the old Nesbitt house (or the Purnell Homestead) and he put in a new fence and took down the old stile and we could not cut through any longer and were we ever mad at "Wissy"! No more apples to pick up on our way through the pasture.

The Welches, Abbotts and Taylors always "cut through the ditch" (so they called it) and cut off by Spring Lake (which was not a lake then but only a ditch) to go home. This was the same ditch where Louise Purnell Jones had dropped her gold bracelet and thinking the ditch was one with quick sand, she knew the bracelet could never be retrieved but one of the older boys, Clyde Taylor, was able to be her hero and get it.

"Miss Ferne" usually walked (in that three-quarters length coat) all the way out from Mahomet and "walked the railroad track" and what fun to walk home with her. It never seemed my turn to walk beside her and then when "Miss Ferne" went down to visit her sister, Myrtie Henness, and did not walk with us pupils who lived north of the school, we always got into a fight on the way home.

Once "Miss Ferne" was going to ride my pony, Pet, and pull a number of us on the sleds behind (a kind of contraption fixed up by my dad). My father was helping "Miss Ferne" on to the pony but because her skirt was so narrow, she rolled right over on the other side and did we laugh!

Then all of us girls went into Mahomet one night with "Miss Ferne" and we "walked the railroad track" and stayed all night with her (when she was living with her sister, Grace Havens) and next morning Lulu Taylor's braids had to be combed and such commotion as there was in getting us ready to go back to school for that day!

I never remember finding a tramp loitering in the schoolhouse but remember the boys going up in the attic to see if someone were up there. Exciting wasn't it?

We always had fun in our games at school. We might make up our own game like "Indian" and today I don't remember the rules but I do know that the old cinder pile by the southwest corner of the school was home base and we could not be caught if we were on the cinder pile. Then we played baseball with the same bases from year to year. The game was played in the north school yard with home base just north of the hickory tree at the west end of the yard; the first base was a large oak tree which stood close to the schoolhouse; second base was the old elm, which at one time had a rope swing on it; and third base was a post on the school yard fence. The boys did the batting for the girls to run. "Handy over" was a good game for any box-type country school. Then we loved to play Blackman which has always been a popular game. Amy Abbott Schertiger says that Charles Purnell always took her through with success. Amy also told of Charles Purnell (one of the big boys in the school when she was just starting in) always pulling her home by her hanging on to a stick or cornstalk and Charles pulling her along and thus he nicknamed her "Pokey" which is a name that has stuck with her down through the years.



In the fall of the year we made dresses from the hickory leaves, pinning the leaves together with the hickory twigs. We were permitted to wear our yellow-leaf dresses all afternoon. Also, in the fall of the year the grass would be quite high in the school yard but the grass was soon mashed down as you sat down in the tall grass to eat your lunch from the dinner bucket.

In the winter we went coasting, either in the pasture by Wilson Miller's or at the corner east of the school (the hill here being steeper and more exciting). We had so much fun coasting we pretended we did not hear that school bell when it rang to announce that the noon hour was over.

In the spring of the year we picked violets on the way home from school. We soon learned the choice spots for the violets with the deepest color and the longest stems--in back of the hedge and also under the bridge that was northeast of the school. Our teacher often took us flower hunting in the spring of the year, down in the woods near the Sangamon River where we found bluebells, Dutchman britches, buttercups, daisies and spring beauties. Then there were dogtooth violets in the sandy place east of the river. Killing snakes on the way home from school in the spring always occupied our time. Have you ever made wreathes for your heads by the weaving together of pink and white clover blooms? How sweet the clover smelled!

Then in the fall of the year--did you ever try to make red ink from the sumac seed pods? It doesn't work but we tried. Those dusty roads in the fall!

Louise Purnell Jones tells of how Olive Sweet Martin was enough older so that when the pencil got short and she did not want it any longer she gave it to the younger girls. Wasn't that nice! And "Miss Ferne" could always sharpen her pencil so that it had a long lead on it and mine was "stubby like." There were no pencil sharpeners in those days but all done by the knife or occasionally one would get one of these little hand-operated screw-type sharpeners.

Can I forget our library? In 1924, a new book was bought and each morning the teacher read it to us--"The Wizard of Oz." It was interesting, but a bit fantastic for some of us realistic "farmers at heart," so it never played much of a part in our thinking and could not possibly compare with Bird's "Christmas Carol" and "The Pixie in the House."

Could anyone tell the story of "Little Black Sambo" as well as "Miss Ferne"? How many pancakes he did eat!!!! She told it so interestingly with her eyes so brown and they would get so big. Why shouldn't we prefer listening to a story to studying history or geography?

One year we caught butterflies and chloroformed them and pressed them into a butterfly picture. George Brackemyre was always so slow in writing his examinations and none of us could leave until he finished. Such a rule!

Below are the answers given by an eight-year old on an examination given in fourth grade physiology. The grade given on the paper was 80.

#### I

"The four things are earack, headack, toothack, cold they can be avoid. because when they can get a cold or when they get hot and then take a rid they can get a cold when they get the earack they get it by sticking there figers in there ears. they can get the headack by pulying there hair. they can get the toothack by eating hard things. like If I was sick I would be geting poor because I wouldn't have much money and so forth."

#### II

(The following paragraph was written in answer to a question about the care of a bicycle. The picture in the book was that of the boy who had taken good care of his bicycle, the analogy being on the proper care of our bodies.)

"When he oled it washed it and keep good care of it and greased it and keep it nice was when he had the most fun with it because when he dedent oil it it would get rusty and durty and when he dident greased it it would creek and rattle as long as Henry keep good care of it is when he has the most fun with his bickle."

#### III

(The question was on good health habits.)

"To wash there teeth so that wouldend rout are turn yellery and to take care of your self."

#### IV

(The question was on bad health habits.)

"I've heard of peple who didnt sleep with there windows open. of sticking the pencle in there mouth

"You should form a good habit when you are young."

---

The roads were next to impassable in the spring of the year and so the greasy strip beside the hedge fence was used for the buggies.

Probably we all can remember the first day we visited school. The author's? I walked alone, down the country road, and had a printed ribbon around my head. I was grown up now!

Then there was the wild grapevine bush by the corner, the health posters we made as well as maps with things pasted on them, representing things for which that part of the country was noted. Then we played teeter totter with the board over one of the boards in the boardfence which surrounded the schoolyard. Our sliding board was made by putting our teeter totter board on one of the boards in the school fence and letting the other end rest on the ground. We played store in the pony barn, shot arrows from our homemade bows (bows made from some limber

willow or maple stick; the marshmallow roast when some of the pupils' cousins from a neighboring town came and ate part of our weiners and marshmallows; the balloons at the Hallowe'en party when "Miss Ferne's" brother worked at a balloon factory; the croquet set at school (how unusual to have anything resembling playground equipment at the school in this early day!); the farewell for one of the boys who was leaving the community (Henry Eddings) so had the taffy pull and did the taffy change colors!

These are just a few of my memories. Have they brought pleasant thoughts and good laughs to you? I am sure Martin is not too different from our other country schools nor were the pupils too different both in their doings and their thinking. What memories have you had as you read this?

The Martin School (building and land) was sold in 1948. It has since been remodeled and made into a country home.



Martin's Sunbonnet children --  
Isabelle and Louise Purnell,  
\_\_\_\_\_, Jessie Taylor,  
\_\_\_\_\_, and Lulu Taylor

Louise Purnell Jones enters Martin with  
the packed lunch in the basket.



## CHAPTER VIII

### THE HARMONY (BELLINGER) SCHOOL

The Harmony School located approximately two miles east and one-fourth mile north of Mahomet. The Bellinger School, later known as the Harmony School, was probably the second school established near Mahomet

HARMONY (BELLINGER) SCHOOL, District 28, originally District one, Section 13, Township 20 (Mahomet), Range 7. The Record of the Deed for this school is in the Recorder's Office, Book 69, page 192, P. 4. Warranty Deed dated February 4, 1867, signed by James W. Fisher and Sallie G. Fisher (only the mark for Sallie G. Fisher) to J. A. Brown, H. E. Burnett, R. P. Carson, School Trustees for Township 20, Section 13 for \$1.00. Filed November 27, 1883.

This is the first recording of the land and yet we do have a school record as early as 1858 for this District so again we can see that these schools were established before the land was granted to them. As late as 1902 this school was still called the Bellinger School, according to the list of teachers that was on file at the Courthouse. According to the records, they first started referring to this school as Harmony School about 1898-1899.

Frank R. Rayburn, relating what had been told to him by his father, Jasper, states, "The Harmony School was first located at the northeast corner of the crossroads, just east of the Purnell corner and on what is now known as Route 150. Sometime in the 80's the school was moved north. R. G. Rayburn, my grandfather, went to the Harmony School when it was at the crossroads. My father and I went to the school when it was one-fourth mile north of the corner. These old desks had at least three generations of initials cut on them."

Because the Fishers gave the land for the Harmony School, I would like to include some paragraphs that will give briefly the early history of this family and its migration to our community. I am sure their history is similar to others in our community who came from Ohio or Kentucky and settled on the banks of the Sangamon. As we read this early history, we can visualize some of their difficulties and hardships, their struggle for mastery of the wilderness and their encounters with the Indians. From all of this has been built our town, our community and our schools of today.

Mr. Forrest Fisher obtained the early history of his ancestors from the memoirs of his grandfather, Robert Fisher, and he has graciously shared it with the author.

Forrest Fisher's great, great grandfather, John, was born in Virginia in 1776. John's parents died leaving him and his two brothers as orphans so he was bound out to a German blacksmith where he was reared to manhood, married and started housekeeping ten miles down the river from Wheeling, where their first son, James was born.

In 1807, John and his wife and son, James, moved to Ross County, Ohio, four miles from Chillicothe where he rented a farm and did farming in the summer and chopped cord wood, burned charcoal and hauled it to Chillicothe where he sold it during the winter months to help make a living for their nine children.

"In that John, my grandfather, was of German descent and was reared by a German family"--quoting Robert, "he was raised to accept the use of liquor. One night he was gambling and drinking with a Presbyterian Deacon. At twelve o'clock the Deacon said he must quit as the next day was Sacrament Day and he must take sacrament. The game ended and my grandfather went home. The next morning grandfather put on his clean clothes and told Elizabeth, his wife, upon her inquiry, that he was going to church to see whether the Deacon was such a hypocrite. This was the turning point in the history of the family for he quit drinking from that time on, joined his wife's church, the Methodist Episcopal, went to school with his children to learn to read and write English, continued working hard and began saving his money and after serving in the War of 1812 with General Wayne, moved to Madison County, Ohio (near Danville, Ohio) and soon with the help of some few neighbors, burned brick and built a small Methodist Episcopal Church which they called 'Bethel' on his land. His children were all members of this church which my grandfather kept up himself until it was ready to fall down from old age."

In 1824, Forrest's great grandfather, James, married a neighbor girl, Sally G. Mortimore, who had come to this area with her parents from Kentucky. They moved into a shanty on a nearby farm and soon began the cattle business, along with farming. James did his banking in Chillicothe but when President Jackson vetoed the National banks he lost everything, so he sold his stock farm and entered 284 acres of land in what was then Williams County where he moved in 1836, cutting his own trail two and one-half miles among the Indians. He began the building of a shanty there, cleared a farm and soon started Methodist meetings in his home. Soon a circuit was set up so there would be a meeting in his house about every Sabbath and sometimes during the week.

James and his wife, Sally G. had three children, John, Robert and Sarah. The Indians who had a camping ground only a quarter of a mile from their shanty were their neighbors for some three and one-half years. The Indians who were Pottawattamies, San Lois and Sanduskies were very sociable and honest in all of their dealings and the Fishers traded with the Indians--vegetables, buckskins, venison, baskets, old silver, etc. The Sanduskies were civilized so the Chief's wife and daughters, having become acquainted with the Methodist faith under Finley's preaching as a missionary among their tribe, belonged to the Methodist Church. John and Robert both enjoyed telling of the fun they had as children, watching the squaws cut down trees which were some three feet in diameter to get an old coon or porcupine. Then they tied the legs of the animal together and hung it across the pole and carried the animals back to camp for a feast. These Indian women trudged through snow, ten to eighteen inches



in depth for distances of three to four miles in order to attend the church services. The Fishers would invite the Indians for dinner which would consist of cornbread, potatoes, spice-brush tea, parched corn, coffee, and if luck was with them they might have wild turkey, squirrel or pheasant or at least something extra for Sunday's dinner.

James Fisher and some of the neighbors cut logs, made slabs and puncheons for a floor, clapboards for a roof and completed a cabin for a schoolhouse. They had an inside chimney that warmed the house and had one window in the west (a log cut out) and one in the north. They had slabs for desks to learn to write on and they did use store books. This was the only school that any of the three children had the privilege of attending but by constant study and with the aid of such teachers as they could get, they did get a fair business education for that day.

In 1847, John, the oldest son of James and Sally, married Nancy Cheney and they started farming on a part of the father's farm. To them was born one son, William in March of 1848.

On May 9, 1848, James Fisher sold his farm and with his entire family which now consisted of his wife, the married son, John, and wife and child, William, and the other two children, Robert and Sarah, started to Champaign County, Illinois. John and his family drove one wagon; Robert drove one wagon with the father and mother; Sarah drove a one-horse buggy. Stops were made at Van Wert and Springfield, Ohio, to visit relatives and at Bethel (which had been their old home place) and Midway, and then they started West. A stop was made at Lafayette, Indiana, to pick up their household goods which had been shipped through to this point. From thence, they went on to Illinois and to Abraham Fisher's home on Goose Creek in Piatt County, Illinois, where they stopped July 10, 1848. Abraham was a brother of James Fisher.

The James Fisher family stayed with the Abraham Fisher family until they could rent a home in that area and then stayed here until October, 1848, when they moved on to the farm which was three miles east of Mahomet, Champaign County, moving into a three-room house, each room thirteen feet square. Mr. Fisher bought this farm for he had come West with \$1500 in cash. (This farm is known to us as the Jay Davis farm.) James' son, John, and wife and child moved onto this same farm and lived there for two years.

Immediately they started having meetings in the home as there was no schoolhouse nor church to hold such meetings. These were continued for about three years before a place was available in town. James helped organize the Mahomet Circuit in 1852 and then started a subscription for the Mahomet Church which was the First Methodist Church built on the Sangamon River above Monticello.

On October 9, 1850, B. Ham with his family from Fayette County, Ohio, came to the Fisher home and stayed with them for two weeks while hunting a home in the new country. The Ham family was the father, mother and nine children, the oldest child being a daughter, Sarah Ann. In the fall of

1850, Mr. Fisher and his son bought calves which represented the beginning of their cattle business.

In the spring of 1851, Mr. Ham moved onto the Ezra Marquiss farm on Goose Creek in Piatt County. On September 11 of that same year at 11:0'clock, the oldest daughter, Sarah A. married James Fisher's son, Robert. And on the same day at 4:00 o'clock, Alfred Gulick and James Fisher's daughter, Sarah E. Fisher, were married in the Fisher home. Robert and his new bride went from the Ham home back to the three-room Fisher home, which also included two porches, and were welcomed by all the neighbors and friends, many staying all night, being bedded down on the floor of the house. The next morning Robert went to work at cutting corn and Sarah Ann to cooking for the hands.

The author believes that it was probably about this time when they were starting the Methodist Circuit and wanting a meeting house for these religious gatherings etc.--about 1852--that the Fishers gave the land for the Harmony School, although the deed is dated February 4, 1867.

In 1879, Robert started running four yoke of cattle to break prairie and for the next ten years ran from four to ten yoke of cattle, helping to start improvements on most of the farms for six miles around their home. Robert and Sarah lived in the house with his parents until April, 1853, when they moved to a three-room house on the same farm and lived there until 1869 at the time of the death of the father, James.

James Fisher started out with \$1500 cash when he came to Illinois and purchased his farm in October, 1848, but at his death in 1869 he had 1600 acres. James and his son, Robert, fed calves and hogs until about 1856 when they started to strong feed older cattle and in 1860 were still feeding cattle and that year sold 115 cattle at \$4.00 per hundred. One year during the Civil war they sold 115 cattle at 9 1/2 cents and hogs at 11 cents on their scales but this was in greenbacks and it took \$250 to get \$100.00 in gold.

After the death of James, Robert and his family moved back to the father's and mother's home with the understanding that Robert was to look after the mother. This didn't prove too satisfactory so in 1870 the land was divided. The mother took 1000 acres near Fisher (the house is still standing about 1/2 mile south of Fisher) and 335 acres of the farm where they had originally settled. Robert sold his share, 335 acres, and moved with his family, wife and six children, to the Fisher farm where they had built a new home and it was here that their seventh child was born.

Sarah, the sister, and her husband, A. Gulick, lived on what is now known as the Eliza Davis home. The mother lived with the daughter, Sarah.

Robert Fisher and all of his family except the son, George A., the father of Forrest Fisher, migrated to Nebraska at the same time that



some of the Herriotts did. Robert Fisher was buried in Lincoln, Nebraska, and along with most other persons who migrated to Nebraska "went broke," losing the 1800 acres of land that they had owned when in our vicinity.

The brother of James Fisher, William, owned and lived on the farm on the Route 150, later known to us as the Rex farm. These two men were known about Mahomet as "Uncle Jimmie" and "Uncle Billy." Both men were buried in the Fisher Cemetery in Hensley Township.

Lathrop's History of Champaign County, 1870-1871 records: James Fisher came from Ohio in 1849--500 acres.

Other early families in this community were "The Rayburns," "The Herriotts," "The Scotts" and "The Davidsons," so a brief story on each and their arrival in our District is being given.

THE RAYBURNS--the legend around the name of "Rayburn" is that there lived in Scotland an old man near a small stream of water, the banks of which were covered with beautiful flowers. In Scotland, a white flower is called a "Ray" and a small stream is a "Burn"--thus, this man was called "Rayburn."

For some time it was thought that four brothers by the name of "Rayburn" (Henry, John, Charles and Andrew) came to America from Scotland and settled in Greenbrier and Monroe Counties of Virginia in 1758. It was thought that Henry married and moved to Mason County, Virginia and that two of his descendants have been John R., who settled near Mahomet, and Henry, who moved to Saybrook from London, Ohio in 1853. Only recently was the history of the Rayburn family traced back to an earlier date with more exact information.

There is an overall relationship among all Rayburns, however spelled. Joseph, the reputed first immigrant arrived in 1698 from Staffordshire, England as a bound servant to one Bryan Blundell of Virginia. Nothing more was found until his large family appeared in Augusta County, Virginia.

Edward who is set up as the progenitor of the Rayburn family in our community could have been a son of Joseph. Edward's children at an early date started west over the mountains but tarried a while in Greenbrier County, Virginia. When they moved on to the Ohio River, there were only one or two descendants of Joseph already in Kentucky. Edward and Margaret, his wife, had two sons, Henry and John, and other children.

Edward's son, Henry, married Margaret Christal and they lived in Augusta County on Jennings and Moffets branches of the Roan Oak River until 1784 when he sold his land and moved across the mountains into Greenbrier County, Virginia where they remained until 1797 when he sold the land and moved farther west to Mason County, Virginia near the confluence of the Ohio and Kanawha Rivers.

Henry and Margaret's thirteenth child, James, married first, Mary Rader in Mason County and they had ten children. After Mary's death, James married Elizabeth and they had seven children.

The second child of James and Mary Rader Rayburn was John Rader who was born in Mason County, Virginia. The place of his birth was listed as "somewhere in Pennsylvania." Early in life, James moved to Chillicothe, Ohio where he married Mary McCoy. John R. and Mary McCoy Rayburn with their ten children, all of whom were born in Ross County, Ohio, moved to Champaign County, Illinois in 1853, coming by covered wagon and settling on what is still today known as the Rayburn Homestead, or the Charles Purnell farm.

The Rayburns first lived in a log cabin which is believed to have been located along Route 150 but close to the gate of the French farm. Later they lived in a log cabin located about half way between the Frank W. Taylor house (the old R. G. Rayburn Homestead) and the Keith Clapper house, back in the pasture. Later, a log cabin was built about where the F. W. Taylor barn now is. When the older people lived in this newer cabin a younger married son and his family would live in the old log cabin which they referred to as "the weaning cabin."

The oldest daughter of John R. Rayburn was Martha Jane who married Cyrus Hartpence. Martha Jane and Cyrus lived on what is today known as the Lewis farm on Route 47, north of Mahomet. Cyrus had lumber cut from the timber for the building of a new home but when his wife died in November of 1860 he sold the lumber to his father-in-law, John R., and this lumber was used to build the old Rayburn Homestead (on the Purnell farm) which house is still being used and having been built from solid oak, the house is quite sturdy. The house was originally a two-story frame house. The top story was blown off in the tornado of June 10, 1902. For several years the house was left as a one-story home; then later it was remodeled into a story and a half.

The sixth child of John Rader and Mary McCoy Rayburn was Robert Gilbert who married Isabelle Agnes Herriott. "R.G." and Isabelle were living in what was known as the "weaning cabin" at the time Mr. Rayburn entered the Civil War in 1864. "R.G." left his wife "Belle" and two older daughters, Ida (who later married Philip Mohr) and Ede (who later married Lew Clapper) to enter service. As with other volunteers for service, it was very difficult for the wife to watch her husband walk away with his gun over his shoulder, disappearing from sight as he walked on beyond the hill--each wondering if there would be his return. Letters from home for these Civil War men were infrequent. Mr. Rayburn's first letter received after he entered service was one telling of the birth of Tom Scott's twin daughters, and the death of the mother at their birth, February 18, 1865.

At one time, "R.G." and "Belle" did live with his parents in the newly built frame house, the John R. Rayburn Homestead. It was the custom in these early days for the married children to live in with the parents or on the farm in another small cabin. Mrs. Charles S. Purnell says that they used to say that when they drove by the John R. Rayburn Homestead there was a child on every stick of wood in the large woodpile, (children and grandchildren)

R. G. and Isabelle Rayburn built their home, the R. G. Rayburn Homestead, on what is today known as the Frank W. Taylor farm, about 1873. They were the parents of fourteen children, the youngest daughter being Laura Jane Rayburn Purnell, mother of the author of this book. The Rayburns moved to their town property, which was later known as the W. O. Dale house, in 1908.

In Lathrop's History of Champaign County 1870-71, we read:-- John R. Rayburn who came from Ohio in 1852 (although other records show the year as 1853) with a farm of about 400 acres, has no superior in the land as an agriculturist. (This acreage included not only what is known as the Ernest Mohr, W.O. Dale, F.W. Taylor and Charles Purnell farms but also the land that went on through to include what is now the Purnell timber north of Mahomet.) The secret of his success as well as many of this town we could name lies in the fact that they bring to their vocation an enthusiastic love for it and do not, as in the case with too many, engage in farming because they have not the means or ability to do anything else. The fact ought to be known that the man who has not the ability to engage in other employments is utterly unfit to farm, that business requiring more real intelligent brain work than any other known. Lists of persons in Mahomet township and their occupations were given, namely: Dan Chaney, teacher; Jess Michael, teacher; W. H. McCracken, teacher; W. V. Miller, teacher; A.D. Sizer, teacher; Henry Smizer, Physician; B. F. Rousch, Druggist; G. W. Allen, Physician; J. A. Carson, Druggist; J. B. Eckerman, Druggist; J. D. Gardiner, Physician; J. H. Gardiner, Physician; A. Tucker, brickmaker and J. P. Turner, Brickmaker.

THE HERRIOTTS--William H. Herriott, born December 30, 1798 in the County of Hampshire, Virginia, moved to Bourbon County, Kentucky in 1807 where he married Mary Louisa. They, with their thirteen children, the youngest of whom was Isabelle Agnes (grandmother of the author of this book) came to Illinois from Hampshire County, Virginia on September 12, 1851. The records show Virginia versus Kentucky for all of this area was originally called Virginia and the land grant was from the Governor of Virginia for their Herriott Homestead at Georgetown, Kentucky, close to Payne Station.

The old brick house at the Kentucky Homestead was the second brick house built west of the Allegheny Mountains. It was a three-story structure with a fireplace in every room. The bricks are hand made, some glazed, but the majority of them are the soft bricks. It was, in its day, considered a big house and one of the finest, with the large porches. The old schoolhouse was nearby. The Herriotts kept boarders and fed the men who were putting in the old railroad track for the horse-drawn train that ran along their plantation. The house is no longer used.

The Herriott Homestead was originally a plantation but William H. became a northern sympathizer and became unpopular in Kentucky so left. Mr. Herriott sold out his plantation, gave his six slaves their papers

and freedom and a patch of ground with a cabin and came to Illinois. Too, the Kentucky land had got high in price while the Illinois land was cheap so many were migrating north. Isabelle Agnes Herriott Rayburn was brought up by a colored "wet nurse" mammy.

When William and Mary Louisa came to Illinois, he was one of the organic members in the formation of the Presbyterian church in Champaign where he served as ruling elder in that church for four years. When the Presbyterian church was organized in Mahomet in April 1858, at his own request, he was dismissed from the Champaign church to unite with this new church, known as the Salem Presbyterian Church, of which he was ruling elder.

The Herriott Homestead in Mahomet was off the highway, about three and one-half miles east of Mahomet. William H. died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Robert G. Rayburn, in 1883.

THE SCOTTS--In Lathrop's History of Champaign County, 1870-1871 we read--Judge (Fielding) Scott was born in Bourbon County, Kentucky, January 27, 1807. Fielding Scott's father, Patrick and his wife, Anna Campbell Scott, emigrated from Washington County, Pennsylvania to Kentucky, down the Ohio in flatboats and settled twenty miles from Boonsboro, Kentucky, (Fielding's grandfather was from Scotland and his mother was from Ireland.) in 1778.

The early life of Judge Scott was spent on his father's farm. In 1827 he married Julia Herriott. In 1830, with their one child they started to Illinois. When they arrived at the grand chain in the Wabash, they were delayed and compelled to resume their journey overland. Mrs. Scott mounted on horseback. The snow was knee deep and they traveled all day through the wilderness; finally, Mr. Scott also mounted the horse and rode behind Mrs. Scott.

They bought a farm in Vermillion County and lived there six years and then moved to their home near Mahomet, later known as the Bellinger farm. Fielding Scott was a Union man and gave two sons to service. His farm was 640 acres in 1835.

Other information on the Scott family--Thomas, son of Fielding and Julia Herriott Scott, married Sarah Rea, daughter of Sarah Porter Henderson and John Rea. (The three children of Sarah and John Rea were Sarah who married Thomas Scott; Mary who married Stephen C. Abbott and Cap Rea.) Thomas Scott (great grandfather of the author of this book) carried the bullet wounds from the Civil War to his grave. He had been left on the battlefield for dead but his "buddy" Jim Warç, went out after dark and dragged him in. He had thirteen bullets in his body.

Thomas Scott's wife gave birth to twin daughters, Sarah and Kate, born February 18, 1865. At the time of their birth the mother died. Thomas Scott then married Mary E. Davidson, daughter of Thomas A.

The other children of Fielding Scott -- a son and then the daughter, Ellen, who later married Jake Bellinger.

THE DAVIDSONS--The Thomas Davidson family came from Ohio in 1853, making the trip at the same time as did the John R. Rayburn family. Mr. Rayburn told of how the horses got so tired that it was difficult to "push" them on. Mr. Rayburn would not travel on Sunday but the Davidsons were wanting to get on to their destination so continued traveling on that day. However, the following day the Rayburns caught up with the Davidsons for their horses had become overtired, and were lagging. It always pays to "Keep the Sabbath."

The one daughter of Thomas Davidson married Thomas S. Scott. A second daughter was Sarah Kate.

Mrs. Fannie Davis Rayburn tells that her mother, Sadie Little Davis, taught the Harmony School at one time. We do not have the Register which records the early pupils and teachers. The earliest teacher recorded was 1887-1888--Mrs. Hattie Norton who was listed by B. Frank Rayburn as being his first teacher. Mrs. Bertie Deadman Pfiester, who is now over ninety years of age and living in California, lists her teachers at Harmony as being John Lindsey, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Davis, Mr. Anderson, Nellie Bardwell, Mr. Madden, Miss Emig (who was also referred to quite often by the late Mrs. Louise Rayburn Taylor as being one of her "ideal" teachers) and Hattie Norton. Mr. Joe Stidham, an early student at Harmony and local resident, records the teachers as follows:

1891-1892	D. Madden
1892-1893 and 1893-1894	William Dillon
1894-1895	Johnnie Hissong
1895-1896	Claude Stark
1896-1897 and 1897-1898	Harry Miller
1898-1899	Clara Dunaway
1899-1900	Bert Waters
1900-1901	Lavon Scoggins
1901-1902	Nate Wiles
1902-1903	Margaret Chester

B. Frank Rayburn relates there was a Mr. Miller who taught at Harmony when his brother "Jap" was a pupil and then another Mr. Harry Miller was a teacher from 1896-1898. Also there was a Mr. Madden who taught at Harmony in the early years and another Mr. D. Madden who taught in 1891-92.

The first teacher of B. Frank Rayburn, but not for the entire year, was a Miss Westow. It seems that Frank went only one or two days, rolled the pencil down the desk, got reprimanded and did not go back then until the next year at which time Hattie Norton was the teacher, 1887-1888. For information on additional teachers and their respective years of teaching at Harmony, see the later Chapter on "Teachers and Years Taught" found in this book.



Many of the teachers roomed at the R. G. Rayburn home. The father of one teacher made the explanation to Mr. Rayburn as to why he wanted his daughter to room with them (a mile's distance from the school): "It won't be long until the winds will blow (pronounced as the "ow" in plow), and it will snow (pronounced with the same short sound of "ow"), and it will fill up the roads and you can't get past," (past pronounced with two dots above the "a."). Lavon Scoggins and Margaret Chester, both teachers around 1900, roomed in the R. G. Rayburn home. B. Frank Rayburn tells that Bert Waters, a teacher at Harmony, worked for R. G. Rayburn during the summer months. After Bert had sheared 31 sheep (which was quite a full day's job) the two of them wrestled after supper and wrestled on and on--neither being able to throw the other one. (Perhaps the teacher was getting his muscle developed to handle the big boys during the school term.)

When Mrs. Laura Rayburn Purnell attended Harmony, she went with her brother "Jap," who, even though eleven years older than she, was still attending the school, taking high school work.

Parents never took their children to school nor did they furnish them with a horse to ride nor did they send them in a car or on the school bus. Mrs. Purnell remembers only once that her father, R. G. Rayburn, came after her and her younger brother, Calvin. The snow was over the fence posts and Mr. Rayburn had gone for the children on the sled, but that night after they got home the children were out playing on the snowdrifts and walking on the crusted snow which they thought was hard enough to not break through when, down they went! Mr. Rayburn's comment "Young chaps, you'll walk to school in the morning." (If they could play in the snow they could walk to school.) Mr. Rayburn, like other parents, walked his children to school under the big black (turned brown) umbrella and held the child's hand to help him jump the mud puddles, but the children were never taken to school by any conveyance.

Can't we see Mr. Rayburn walking along in his white shirt with the tucked, stiff bosom (cold starched), with the detachable collar, under the big umbrella with his young daughter? Mrs. Purnell says she never saw her father in anything but a white shirt. Of course, the collars wouldn't be worn on the shirts when they worked in the fields or gardens. Today, he would be termed a "gentleman farmer."

Harry Miller, one of the teachers, had a hobby of taking pictures. On one occasion when the picture was being taken, Laura Rayburn Purnell was aware of a hole being in the heel of her younger brother's stocking so she covered it with ink so it would not show in the picture. At another time when the school picture was being taken, Mrs. Purnell turned the collar of her brother Calvin's shirt in so the collar would not show that it was soiled; (she seems to have had a motherly interest in the younger brother, but I am not sure if there was an improvement in the looks of the brother after her efforts for am sure the soiled collar would never have been seen in the photo but the collar turned in was very evident. (The picture is shown on the next page.)





Pupils at Harmony School -- 1896

Top row, left to right-- \_\_\_\_\_?, \_\_\_\_\_?, Anna Milke, Florence Betts, Ombra Lindsey, Laura Rayburn, Joe Stidham, \_\_\_\_\_?, Harry Miller, Teacher;

Second row-- Earl Gulick, \_\_\_\_\_?, Melissa Stidham, Roy Betts, \_\_\_\_\_?

Bottom row-- Anno Scott, \_\_\_\_\_?, Ada Lindsey, Hazel Davis, Willie Milke, Harry Herriott, Matt Herriott, Calvin Rayburn. (Notice collar of Calvin's shirt turned in so as not to show soil in picture.)

When Mrs. Purnell was in the upper grades, she had a niece in the lower grades who felt compelled to go home and tell her father of her aunt's interest in one of the older boys in the school and how he had even been bold enough to kiss the aunt. The niece told her father and the father hurried over to relate the doings of the "young sister to "R. G." (behind closed doors), but Mr. Rayburn was a man wise in years and knew that schoolday sweethearts come and go and that his daughter was only normal and that "big brother" would learn all about it by the time he reared his eight children, so even though my mother heard all of this being told as she eavesdropped, the matter was never called to her attention by her father. Having older brothers married and settle in the school neighborhood provided a place for my mother to go during the schoolday noon hours, but this was handled quickly, once and for all. It was not nearly as funny as she had thought it was going to be when brother "Jap" said, "And I don't want you to ever come over here at noon again."

Joe Stidham writes, "W. D. Madden was the teacher in 1891 when I started to school. The pupils in the first grade that year besides myself were my sister, Melissa Stidham, Willie Gulick, Myrta Gulick

Bertie and Mertie Johnston, the twins (whom Mr. Madden could tell apart only by a patch of freckles across one's nose), and Mrs. Laura Rayburn Purnell. Mrs. Madden was quoted as saying that Mr. Madden would have quit teaching had it not have been for the first-reader class."

Mr. Stidham refers to one of the teachers, Mr. Hissong, as "The German drill master from Mayview," (who later married one of the neighborhood girls, Kate Culick) and told of having seen him on the ice at the river smoking a white China German pipe and of his being shocked!! (The students expected certain standards from their teachers then as well as now, and the teachers have always been looked up to as an example.)

Ombra Lindsey Foster and Laura Rayburn Purnell remember the Friday afternoon program when Mr. Hissong gave a poem as a reading. The entire poem was not remembered but the ending two lines of the poem seem to have been:

"Punch, punch, punch with care;  
Punch with the Indian pas-sen-ger."

Mr. Hissong placed extra emphasis in his delivery of the poem by bouncing his two-hundred pounds up and down on his chair as he recited "punch," "punch," "punch" and the word "passenger" carried the full accent on the last syllable.

Mr. Stidham comments on another of the teachers as, "Claude Stark whom we all loved as a very elder brother. How he could sing! And he was a good teacher." B. Frank Rayburn related how Claude Stark would sit with one of the girls who was an older student and would kiss her hand etc. and then the girl's older brother would go home and "tattle" to her father on her doings.



Pictured at the left is the teacher, Harry Miller and his eleven-year-old pupil, Laura Rayburn. You can see the picture was taken taken outside the school building with the walnut table moved out to hold the bouquet of flowers. When Mrs. Laura Rayburn Purnell was in the first grade, the teacher punished her by seating her on the table in front of the room. Was she embarrassed! Picture was taken in 1896.

Mr. Stidham called Harry Miller the "man with the gad." While Mr. Miller was the teacher, Ombra Lindsey Foster and Laura Rayburn Purnell were studying together, which was the custom, and whoever finished reading the page first was to pronounce the word louder, thus letting his fellow reader know he was finished and ready to turn the page. Laura overdid it a bit when she pronounced the word out-loud and Harry called them down.



Harmony Pupils with the Draped Flag for Background, 1898  
Top row, left to right-- Earl Gulick, Anna Milke, Laura Rayburn, Ombra Lindsey, Florence Betts, Roy Betts.

Mr. Miller's candidate, Bryant, was defeated so the morning after the returns of the election, the pupils were compelled to take their seats with the order that there would be no discussions on the election and its results.

It was when Miss Dunaway was teaching at Harmony that Laura Rayburn Purnell decided on the last night before the final examinations were to be given that she would take the exams after all, even though she had done no previous reviewing. Laura took every book home that night. She says she vividly recalls sitting on the stairway (a steep and long stairway) praying that the Lord would let her pass those exams. Mrs. Purnell states, "That is when I learned that the Lord helps those who help themselves." Her grades were not at all improved from that one night of arduous praying.

It is surprising that there were not more deaths and sickness in these early days than there was. Mrs. Charles Purnell has never been

Another student of Harry Miller's was Sam Beals who recited the poem which had passed around the community and had caused disturbance in the Cherry Grove School as was related by Lee Dale. The poem was: "Hired a fool, to teach the school, And gave him \$40." Poor "Sammie" never got any farther for Mr. Miller jumped at him with, "Did you mean anything by that?" Mr. Miller also taught when there was the big Presidential political campaign for Bryant vs McKinley.

vaccinated even though the ruling was made in the school that all pupils had to be vaccinated. Mrs. Purnell's father said she didn't have to have the vaccination--and that was that! Did you ever have the "Seven Years' Itch"? Did you have it when the long underwear was the style of the day? (The author's memories on this subject are most vivid. )

Laura Rayburn Purnell, Ona Clapper Hood and Ombra Lindsey Foster all told of how Mr. Wiles would say, "one, two, three" which indicated to the pupils that they were to "stand, turn and pass." Mr. Wiles would use his lips to pronounce the words and how he did emphasize those numbers! It seems that every wrinkle on his countenance showed up, quoting, "the wrinkles would go back from his mouth like ripples on the water when you throw in pebbles." (one--mouth back; two--lips protruding out; three--mouth back again.)

When Margaret Chester, teacher from 1902-03, sang her favorite song, "Come, Thou Almighty King," she rested the songbook on her bosom and would direct the pupils' singing by marking time with the emphatic singing on her own part plus keeping the book moving up and down in a steady beat, according to Mrs. Laura Rayburn Purnell and Mrs. Ombra Lindsey Foster.

A letter was received from Miss Elgie Deadman of California saying, "We left the Mahomet community seventy years ago, in 1892. (The Deadmans lived on what we knew later as the French farm.) There were six of us Deadman children, Bertie, Frank, Orville, Homer, Roy and Elgie. Bertie was six when the folks moved there from Bethany; the three youngest children were born on this farm. Five of us were old enough and did attend Harmony, known then as the Bellinger School. Both Rose and Kate Bellinger were in school at that time. (Mrs. Bertie Deadman Pfiester then supplied the list of teachers for these early days, the list having been given to you previously in this chapter.) Bertie, Frank and Orville attended school in Mahomet a short time. After Frank was thrown from a horse and badly crippled in one ankle, he went to Danville, Illinois to school for a short time.

"My father served on the school board with R. G. Rayburn. (Miss Deadman then listed the names of the Rayburn children and did a near-perfect job in getting them listed correctly by their ages.) One of my brothers, Frank, was a doctor in Chicago before his death in 1950. Roy is still a minister of the Christian Church in Princeton, Indiana. Roy's son is Managing Editor of the Chicago Sun Times and has written several books among which were 'Duty to Live' and 'Fabulous Chicago.' "

Mr. Frank W. Taylor related how the father, Mr. Homer Deadman asked the question, "Why is it that when you chop wood on Sunday that it sounds louder than it does on any other day in the week?" Persons in those days observed the Sabbath Day with greater respect than we do today.

In the Biographical Sketches published in 1900 we read, "J.A. Bellinger--his sincere interest in the cause of education led to his

being chosen to serve on the school board and for some time was President of the organization." It was because of Mr. "Jake" Bellinger's interest in the school that the school was named for him.

The earliest readers known to be used at Harmony were McGuffey's which were followed by Appleton's around 1900. Other books used about 1900 were: "A Child's History of the United States" by Goodrich; (It would seem to the author that this was a very small book to be used as a history book for a child of thirteen and probably represented his sixth or seventh grade book.) and "Brief History of the United States" by Steele and Steele which was Barnse's Historical Series.

Mrs. Laura Rayburn Purnell tells of the method used for learning the names of the Presidents and the chronological order of their respective terms of office through the supplied "paragraph" which most pupils of that day well remember--

"Washington and Jefferson made many a joke.

VanBuren had trouble, plenty to find.

Poor banknotes let Johnson go home greatly agitated concerning his cabinet men."

The beginning letter of each word in the statement stood for the beginning letter of the President's last name, such as; "W"--Washington; "a" (in the word "and")--Adams; "J" (in the word "Jefferson")--Jefferson; "m" (in the word "made")--Madison, etc. The early Presidents in their chronological order of term of office were: Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, Adams, Jackson, Van Buren, Harrison, Tyler, Polk, Taylor, Fillmore, Pierce, Buchanan, Lincoln, Johnson, Grant, Hayes, Garfield, Arthur, Cleveland, Harrison, Cleveland and McKinley.

Presidents since this little "jingle" was used have been: "Teddy" Roosevelt, Taft, Wilson, Coolidge, Hoover, F. D. Roosevelt, Eisenhower, Truman and Kennedy.

The familiar songbook in the earliest days was "Merry Melodies" with the songs, "May" and "Sweet Summer's Gone Away."

MAY       --       The bright May morn has come again  
                      With all her birds and flowers  
                      Upon her face joy seems to reign  
                      And gladness marks her hours

Chorus: She comes, she comes, she comes with flowers to  
          greet you  
          She comes, she comes, she comes with flowers again.

Of course, the better the pupils felt and the prettier the day, the more enthusiastically they sang and then some of the boys who aspired to be "basso profundos" and some of the girls hoping to develop an alto voice would come in later in a lower voice with their "She Comes."

This book was replaced by the songbook, "Merry Songs" which also carried some of the songs such as "May" and "Sweet Summer's Gone Away" but



also carried "Baby's Gone to Sleep," which was one of the favorites. This book was followed by the "Musical Gems."

One of the earliest books in Harmony's Library which was enjoyed was, "Stories of Colonial Children."

One day, Laura Rayburn Purnell wore her sister's bustle to school, hoping she would look like Lou Herriott Davis who had come back from the State of Kansas, and being enough older had developed a bit and was some heavier so had a small round stomach. Lou would sit with her arms folded and more or less resting on this "round stomach." This was admired by Laura who conceived the idea of wearing the bustle backwards. Everyone inquired what she had on and her reply was that it was her natural self but at recess she removed the bustle, hid it down the road under the culvert until she went home that night when she gathered it up, took it home, and replaced it on the shelf of the wardrobe where it should have been left in the first place.

Only recently, at the Frank W. Taylor home (originally the Rayburn Homestead) was found an application from Harry Miller, one of Harmony's early teachers. The letter has been reprinted below:

Seymour, Ill.  
May 18, 1897.

Mr. R. G. Rayburn,  
Mahomet, Ill.,

Dear Sir:

As I have not looked around for a job since seeing you, I will hereby accept your offer of 8 1/2 or 9 months' school (9 preferred) at \$45 per month.

I trust you will not think it assuming in me should I suggest that the school house be treated to a coat of paint, a new floor and papered and a flag staff put upon it.

With best regards for yourself and family, I am

Yours respectfully,  
H. Miller.

P.S. Please drop me a line telling the action of the board after you meet.

Esta Rayburn Mellinger tells of George Primmer being her teacher at Harmony School when she was in the third and fourth grades. George wanted to go on to high school but his parents would not send him so he contacted the school board and they agreed to let the teacher teach him high school subjects in return for his teaching some of the lower grades. After two years of this, he took the teachers' exam and taught a country school. From this point on, he went on until he received his Master's and his Doctor's Degrees, all on his own. Obtaining an education was not always encouraged by the family and was often obtained under difficulties. Esta sent to the author the picture shown on the following page. Esta was a pupil at Harmony when the picture was taken; her father and grandfather had both been students at this same school. The picture shows a stile by the board fence at the front of the school building.

Frank R. Rayburn said, "My first reader class was composed of Delbert Rayburn, Oliver Suttle and Jim Davis (1909) with Daisy Smith as the teacher. After a couple of months and several broken rulers we learned we were not



to talk outloud. We learned to whisper so it wa sn't very much quieter. One of the school directors never wanted to have a first day of school for said the kids did not learn anything that day. There was plenty of mud in those days and I never remember my dad taking me to school once. A bucket of snow was kept handy for some of the kids from the north with frozen hands. Gloves would have helped. "



Teacher and Pupils of Harmony School -- 1909 or 1910 showing stile

Front row, left to right -- Clara Fogel, Floyd Davis, Jim Davis, Ted Rayburn, Delbert Rayburn, Robert Rayburn. Back row -- Doisy Smith (Voss) teacher, Esta Rayburn, Hattie Beightler, Elinor Herriott, Elsie Davis, Jess Fogel, William Rayburn, Lloyde Fogel Marge Primmer, Grace Seth.

Besse Primmer Miller, an early student, furnished the picture shown below.



Teacher and Pupils of Harmony School -- 1908

Frant row, left to right -- Delbert Rayburn, Clara Fogel, Elinor Herriott, Frank Rayburn, Elsie Davis, Ted Rayburn, Jim Davis. Second row -- \_\_\_\_\_?, Hattie Beightler, Jesse Fogel, Grace Seth, Paul Wright, Amanda Beightler, Ralph Davis, Esta Rayburn, Willie Rayburn, Besse Primmer, Roscoe Strong and the teacher, Zaye Williamson.

Frank R. Rayburn relates that his father, Jasper, thought his speaking not too clear and perhaps his tongue was a little tied so he got down the scissors and clipped his tongue a bit. Then deciding it was not enough, Mr. Rayburn later clipped it a second time. These "old timers" performed their own tasks whenever possible.

Another story told on Frank R. is how his mother had made him a very pretty bright red coat out of an old red velvet dress of hers. Frank decided that it was not like the ones his cousins, Ted, Willie and Bob, were wearing so he put up a strong complaint which his mother ignored and he was compelled to wear the coat to school. However, "Frankie" still was not satisfied that the coat was proper so he wore it towards school (having it on when he left home and when he returned to his home) but the coat was carefully hidden in the cornfield during the day.

Frank R. tells, "When Jim Davis and I were going to school under Miss Bebout, Jim picked up a piece of coal and threw it at her, luckily missing her. Miss Bebout got out her board, about like a 2 x 4 with a shaped handle, and proceeded to paddle Jim who got in the kneehole of the teacher's desk. Jim hollered to me--'Run for Pa, she's a killin' me' so I started out the door for Jim's Dad but Miss Bebout made me come back and take my seat."

Mary Hoit Herriott talks of her experiences when teaching at Harmony and commented on the fact that her husband, "Matt" Herriott had attended Harmony as well as his two children, Roger and Geraldine, and that this was also the first school where she had taught.

Ferne Hoit Williamson also taught at this school and says, "The mud was as deep this year as were the drifts of snow when teaching at the Wright School. When I was teaching at Harmony, Ernest Stout was the mail carrier and the two of us always made the first tracks out in the morning whether it was in the mud or in the snow. On Monday morning that school room was below zero. It took seven to eight buckets of coal to keep the fire going. Our faces would burn up and our feet would freeze so Rex Davis once suggested that we stand on our heads!!!"

Amy Woods Starkey says, "Two or three of the boys got mad at us girls so Frank Ponders was the one who hung me up in the coal house, putting the rope around my waist and under my arms. I think my brother, Victor, and some of the girls helped get me down. Victor was always looking after my interests. Once the boys didn't want me playing with them, when we were playing with our sleds in the snow and 'Vic' says, 'O.K., if you don't play with Amy, I am not going to pull' and of course they needed his help in pulling the sleds so that way I got back into the groove. Today you see how people take their children to school when they have only a few blocks to go, yet I remember walking every day when it was muddy or cold or snowy and sometimes it would be below zero. I had walked that road so often that I could walk it in the dark or with my eyes shut and I knew just where all the mudholes were and when to step down off the bank and when to get back on the bank again."

The picture shown below was furnished by the author who was a student at Harmony.



Pupils and Teacher at  
Harmony School -- 1924

Front row, left to right-- Mary Purnell, Sue Sherman, Lela Grindley, Howard Grindley, James Wood, Wayne Primmer, Roger Herriott, Margaret Woods, Eleanor Woods, Raymond Primmer

Top row-- Victor Woods, Pearl Grindley, Isabelle Purnell, Dorothy Herriott, Lois Davis, Amy Woods, Elsie Sherman, Virginia Herriott and the teacher, Mrs. John Miner.

Pictured at the right we see Isabelle S. Purnell seated on her pony, "Snowball" and her younger sister, Mary, standing at the side. It was a well-known fact to persons in the community at both Martin and Harmony (where the two girls attended school) that Isabelle would have preferred riding her pony with no sister on behind--but-----

The Harmony School was sold in 1948 and was purchased by someone who lived near Ogden. The building was removed from the property and the land was purchased by Mr. Hannah who owned the adjoining ground.

The last year for the school to be in session was 1945-1946.



Children rode or drove their horse or pony to school. Isabelle and Mary Purnell and the pony, "Snowball"

And so the interesting memories of the pupils may be related from whatever school or age they came.

large picnic spread in the country school or the town school had their picnic on the last day of school which was enjoyed by the pupils, the teacher and the parents.

Below is the picture taken of the people of the community of Harmony School in 1910 for the gathering at their last day of school picnic. As a general rule, the picnic was held on the school lawn or in the afternoon, in the event that it had rained, but this year it was held in a nearby wooded area (approximately where the Champaign Sportsman's Club is now located). The picture was taken by Mrs. May Rayburn and was furnished by Esta Rayburn Mellinger.



Harmony's Last Day of School Picnic -- 1910

Front row, left to right -- James Davis, \_\_\_\_\_?, Alpheus Royburn, \_\_\_\_\_?, \_\_\_\_\_?, Frank Royburn, Ted Royburn, \_\_\_\_\_?, Delbert Royburn, William Caldwell, Little girl at very front may be Nellie Suttle.

Second row \_\_\_\_\_? Cottell, Gladys Caldwell, Elsie Davis, Alta Caldwell, Elinor Herriott, \_\_\_\_\_? Cottell, Clara Fogel, \_\_\_\_\_?

Third row \_\_\_\_\_?, Inez Colburn, Marge Primmer, Floyd Davis

Back row -- Mae Royburn, Mrs. Fred Primmer, Mrs. Bert Suttle, Kate Herriott, Ellen Bellinger, Lillian Chandler, Mrs. Jap Royburn, Bess Primmer, Mrs. Frances Caldwell.



## CHAPTER IX

### THE SALEM (LITTLE BRICK) SCHOOL

The Salem School (Little Brick) is located approximately four miles northwest of Mahomet on what was known as the old Bloomington Road. Mr. Elbert Morrison says this school was originally called the Plymouth School.



Salem (Red Brick) School

SALEM SCHOOL, District 31, originally District 3, Section 15, Township 20, Mahomet, Range 7. The Record of the Deed for this school is in the Recorder's Office, Book 44, page 99, P. 19, June 20, 1868. S. H. Lyons (signed Samuel), Martha Lyons (signed Martha M.), Thomas Lyons (signed his mark), Ruth Lyons, J. P. Lyons (signed John P. Lyons), Ann Lyons, E. S. Lyons (signed his mark and person who signed for him signed Edward), Mary Lyons, Preston Webb, Elizabeth Webb (signed her mark), H. C. Lyons, Emory Lyons (signed H. E. Lyons), Mary R. Lyons (her mark only and signed as Mary J. Lyons), J. W. Hannah (signed as John W. Hannah) and Eliza Hannah (and signed her mark only) to John A. Webb, James Q. Thomas and J. D. Taylor, Trustees, District 3, Township 20, for \$40.00. Filed November 10, 1885.

Mr. S. C. Abbott records in his autobiography of 1853 the story of preaching services being held in a log schoolhouse on the Bloomington road, now identified as the Brick or Salem School. Roy Parrett says that both of his parents attended Salem School when it was formerly a log schoolhouse. Mr. Parrett believes the brick school was built about 1866 or 1867 and by the same contractor who built the brick house which is now owned by Mr. Brethorst. We do have records pertaining to this District as early as 1858. However, the deed was recorded ten years later, in 1868.

In the Biographical Sketches, published 1900--"William B. Lyons--he attended the District schools, of course, and without difficulty mastered their limited curriculum."

Mrs. Ida Taylor Paulus, daughter of J. D. Taylor who was one of the original Trustees for the District and who is an Octogenarian of Breckenridge, Michigan, is one of the earliest living pupils of Salem. Mrs. Paulus writes, "I don't recall much about our school days concerning our learning but do remember one fall we were having a new teacher and none of us knew her at all so we girls all decided to change our names. We each took a name we liked better than our own and when school opened and we were all in our seats the teacher came along to take our names. If I remember, mine was 'Isabelle,' but, of course, when we were playing or talking to each other we soon were calling each other by the real name. The teacher soon found out and we had to take our own names back.

"One bitter cold morning in January, a girl, Beth Goodier, came to school late. She took off her hood and coat and had a fan (one that opens and shuts like pleats, with a ribbon in it and around her neck), and she walked to her seat, fanning away..

"Someone asked the teacher, Mr. Morehouse, what was the capital and largest city in Illinois and he said, 'Mahomet' was the capital and 'Champaign' was the largest city."

Maymee Taylor Clark, another daughter of J. D. Taylor, not only attended this school as did all of her brothers and sisters--George, Hattie, Alice, Ida, Frank and Grayce--but Maymee also taught at Salem and writes, "Random thoughts of dear old Salem School--I know its real name is Salem, always wrote it on our test papers but don't know who named it nor where they got the name. The land was off the farm of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Lyons. They lived the first house east of the school on the north side of the road. They had three children around the age of my mother's first three. They sold that farm and moved to Missouri when I was a little girl.

"One of the real early teachers was Joe Hawes of Mahomet. He was Lew's (Maymee's husband) uncle and my parents liked him so much. His health began to fail and he went to Missouri and later died with tuberculosis. I don't know if he came back to Mahomet or not. Then there was Maggie Sidner whom we all liked. She lived in Mahomet also; I think she was my first teacher. Later on was Olive Brown who grew up on a farm near Rising; she taught two terms and was very good. Olive later married a man named 'Rising.' Byron Abbott was so good to my sister, Alice, and worked to make her hear it all; she liked him. Charlie Thomas was red headed and his back was always stiff as a poker; he was 'A-1' on discipline 'n no one dared breathe the whole term.

"Other teachers--M. O. Stover, George Barnhart, Mary Thorne of Champaign (who was very good and was a real blond). We had H. J. Morehouse for a summer term and liked him. Mrs. Dora Cochran came from Ohio with her parents and her sisters and lived in Mahomet and taught in the Mahomet school and at our school during the summer terms. Once she brought her little nephew to school with her. I was just



beginning to diagram in grammar then and had had some poor teachers and was all mixed up so she straightened me out and from then on I got one hundred in grammar on every test I took. Another teacher was Hattie Norton who later became Mrs. 'Bud' Pinkston and was a very good teacher.

"D. C. Morehouse taught for three or four years and was splendid in every grade. The last two years I went to school, Mr. Morehouse had Josephine Pittman and me do high school work. We used the same books and did the same work as they did all over Champaign County. On the County examinations, I ranked second in one Township Test and one County Test. That was some test for a country girl like me!!! Such a crowd of persons as there were to take the examinations for they had come from all over the county. I felt as if I would be in such a crowd and in such a large school in Urbana. This all seems like a long time ago (Mrs. Clark is past 85 years of age now.)

"After I started teaching, a Pearl Williamson of Urbana taught at Salem when my younger sister, Grayce, was still in school. She was very pretty with lovely auburn hair and wore pretty clothes. The children all called her 'Miss Pearl.' Grayce had her come home with her and everyone loved her so she came often and we all had such good times. 'Miss Pearl' boarded at J. C. W. Pittman's.

"When I taught at Salem, Roy Parrett and two girls were in the fourth grade and they committed all the poems in their reader and recited in concert. Roy was perfect in this--always had every word right.

"They started using the Appleton Readers at Salem when I was in the first grade and used them all during my years as a pupil at Salem and even after I taught there. We had spelling schools occasionally which were real exciting when the old and young from here and the other schools took part.

"One year or two we had a real good Literary Society with many good programs. Some very nice Christmas trees and programs gave pleasure to the neighborhood.

"The thrill of our lives was every year when a band of gypsies camped at the school and the women did big washings and hung the washings on the schoolyard fence. We were a little afraid of them but all of us ventured close enough to watch them pack up."

Mr. Frank W. Taylor, the youngest son of J. D. Taylor, was a resident of this community and a student at Salem around the latter part of the nineteenth century. Mr. Taylor, now in his 80's, tells of one winter when Dave J. Morehouse was the teacher. There was a big sleet storm and few of the boys had sleds or even homemade sleds but would ride an old window shutter down the hill by the schoolhouse. The teacher surprised everyone when he came down the hill riding the scoop shovel and holding the handle, seemingly able to do a good job of guiding it. Mr. Taylor had the same opinion of "D.J." as did his other students--that he was a very good teacher. In fact, while "D.J." was

Evening year, too. Fred Stearns and Paul Stearns attended this school instead of their own country school, as did also Preston Carter. Then Edward Parlett was from the southern part of the state, and worked for J.C.W. Pittman, attended the Salem School during the winter months.

Mr. Taylor told of an incident which occurred when he was a pupil at Salem. "One of the boys placed a cartridge on the stove and, of course, when the stove got hot, the cartridge went off and exploded, tearing a hole in the ceiling and making a big noise."

The earliest record of teachers which was found in the Courthouse was 1887--88 when Mollie Thomas was listed as Salem's teacher. Additional teachers for other years is found in a later chapter.

Amy Abbott Scherzinger writes, "I taught twelve years plus five more years as a substitute all over Champaign. I was graduated from Mahomet High School in May, 1911. That fall, Mr. Parrett, Mr. Anderson and Mr. Bartlett offered me \$40 per month to teach the Brick (Salem). I did the best I could, but I am sure I did a very poor job. Anyway, they thought I was worth more so they gave me \$45 for my second year there."

The author recalls visiting this school when a cousin, Helen Purnell, was the teacher. As a pre-school child, she rode behind the teacher on her horse from the Charles Purnell home up through the fields to "The Brick." Recreation for that day was playing horse with the older girls-- "Lit-Up." (Or is it Get Up--term used to prod a horse on?)

Salem School closed October 1, 1943 because of lack of pupils. The schoolhouse is still standing at its original location but is now used as a pignouse. Roy Parrett who attended Salem furnished the two pictures-- one of the pupils in 1902-1903 and their teacher and a more recent picture of the schoolhouse.



First row, left to right-- Roy Parrett, Edith Bartlett, Flossie Barnhart, Osa Fagan, Orval Stover, Carrie Davis, Ralph Bartlett. Top row-- Teacher, Lillian Zerbe, Lottie Davis, Nellie Stover, Jim Thomas, Grayce Taylor, Cecil Pittman.

## CHAPTER X

### THE CHERRY GROVE (DALE) SCHOOL

The Cherry Grove School is located approximately one mile south and one-fourth mile west of Mahomet

CHERRY GROVE SCHOOL, District 26, originally District 5, Section 21, Township 20, Mahomet, Range 7. The Record of the Deed for this school is in the Recorder's Office, Book 74, page 536, p. 14. John W. Park and Caroline Park, his wife (the grandmother of Hazel Purnell Burns) for \$1.00 convey to Wm. Stearns, Jule D. Brown, August Pfiesterer, School Trustees, one acre as long as used for a schoolhouse building and Lot, May 12, 1885. Signed by John W. Park (but his wife did not sign). Filed October 21, 1885.

This is dated May 12, 1885 and filed the same year. However, there is a record on this school as early as 1858.

Lee Dale of Skiatook, Oklahoma, long-time resident of this community and an early pupil at Cherry Grove, and one who is over ninety years of age at the time of his writing an account of the school, relates: "Cherry Grove came into existence some time during the year of 1860. At the time of its beginning, John Wallace Park, a landowner, donated one acre in the northwest corner of a four-acre tract, just south of the road from a grove of cherry trees growing on the Mead homestead which obviously was the reason for the school being given the name, "Cherry Grove." This grove of cherry trees was no doubt the result of John W. Mead's work. The trees produced the most luscious, big red cherries I ever tasted. The trees grew quite tall and ladders were used to reach the fruit during harvest periods. What caused the depletion and sudden death of all of the trees I am not able to explain. Sometime later, the name of the school was known as the Dale School, the building being located within forty rods of our home, accessible in all kinds of weather. (Per the Record of Teachers found in the Courthouse, this school was called the Dale School until 1901-1902 when it was referred to as "Cherry Grove.")

"The directors were alternated among the men of the District-- Park, Davis, Dale, Johnston, Pfiester, just three being in office at a time.

"My first teacher was Miss Nancy Barker. Following Miss Barker were James Karr, Mose Younglove, Miss Jennie Pittman, Edward Staples, Frank Osborne, Pat Alverson, John Mills Oakwood, George Lytle, Miss Angy Canard, Miss Alta Yexley and Miss Howard.

"I was informed by my brother, Oscar, that the well-known Ford girls, Estella Grant and Irene L., once attended Cherry Grove before

moving out of the District and into the Town of Mahomet. Also, Mrs. Eliza Knox Davis was once a pupil.

"We frequently had school programs and spelling contests. My sister, Christina, and Charles Pfiester, (Clark's father) were the usual champions. At one of our stated programs a certain pupil finished his oration with this finale: 'Lord of love, look down from above  
And pity us poor scholars  
We have a fool to teach our school  
And pay him forty dollars.'

"That closed the program pronto, going over the neighborhood like a prairie fire and ending our programs for that term of school."

"Bill" Johnston, a resident of our community and an early pupil at Cherry Grove, now more than ninety years of age, adds two more teachers to the list, namely, Miss Windette (his first-grade teacher) and "Dave" Morehouse. Mr. Johnston says, "What was early known as the Mead farm was just south of the Shively farm although later what is now the Dale farm was known as the Mead farm--Thomas Dale's wife being a Mead. Irene and Estella Ford lived with their parents in a log cabin which was halfway between the Hume's farm (on the corner at Route 47) and the Dale farm. The cabin was on the north side of the road. This was "Cap" Ford's home. Lindia Parnell, another schoolmate, and her brother lived in a log cabin which I think now is a part of the Guy Webb house. At this time, John Egbert had a sawmill on the banks of the Sangamon. Eliza Davis attended Cherry Grove and lived with her parents at that time on what was known as the old Shively farm."

Charlie Parnell, the early student to whom Mr. Johnston referred, is still living in Urbana.

Charles Dale, also an early student at this school has contributed to our book with his keen memory,--- "My first school days were spent in the Cherry Grove School, later called the Dale School. Every Friday afternoon we always had a program of entertainment. Then occasionally there would be a spelling contest between two neighboring schools which would be held at night and believe me there was quite a rivalry between the Dale School and the Argo School, but it was always a lot of fun."

Eliza Knox Davis, ninety-six years of age, tells, "I attended Cherry Grove School and my teacher was Angy Canard and when my grandson, Russell, was in the hospital, Miss Canard was a patient there. Miss Canard recognized me as I walked by her hospital door and she asked her nurse if I were Eliza Davis; she recognized me after all of these years."

Mrs. Edith Shively Wegeng comments particularly on Cherry Grove School--(she has been quoted previously on country schools, in general), "My family moved from Ivesdale to the Shively farm, southwest of Mahomet in 1898. I was eleven years old and went to Cherry Grove School. Jessie Peddicord was the teacher and the pupils were Belle and Fern Dale, Vance Park, John Park, Ora Knox, Stella and Edith Shively, Elmer, Edna

and Maggie Wright and some of the Carters and Harrises tenants' children.

"After Jessie Peddicord was Maude Lawhead, a wonderful teacher, and next to my mother, she influenced my life more than anyone else. She was the teacher during my seventh and eighth grades. Most pupils walked to and from school. A few rode or drove a horse which was tethered in the school yard. There was some social life of the community centered at the school in the form of box socials, Christmas programs, etc."

Ella Herriott Primmer writes, "I taught at Cherry Grove for two years and got \$45 a month. That was a smaller school and it was just like a big family. The Dale girls (Belle and Ferne) and Nellie Brash took the County Finals and came out well." (How well the pupils did on the County Finals in a large measure determined whether or not the teacher was rehired.)

Miss Ferne Dale told of an experience which happened at Cherry Grove when her Uncle Lee Dale and "Kid" Johnston were pupils. It seems that some of the older boys had a string attached to the trigger of a gun and from the gun's trigger the string went up to a brick on the window sill (the string quite hidden, of course). During the school time one of the boys supposedly, accidentally, knocked the brick off of the sill and this in turn pulled the gun's trigger (gun being under the schoolhouse) and what an explosion!!" Who did it? What happened? Where did the noise occur?

In 1942-1943 was the last year school was held here at Cherry Grove. The schoolhouse was sold to a Mr. Shelton who moved the building to Seymour.



## CHAPTER XI

### THE UNION SCHOOL

The Union School was located approximately three miles southeast of Mahomet.

UNION SCHOOL, District 27, originally District 6, Section 35, Township 20, Mahomet, Range 7. In the Board of Trustees Book, we find various entries on setting up a Union District:--

April 7, 1862--petition presented from several citizens to set up a Union District and the petition was granted.

April 6, 1863--Steps taken were not legal so petition declared null and void.

October 5, 1863--Formed a Union District. Ordered the same to be platted.

April 4, 1864--the new District formed at the last meeting was annulled and another petition was presented to have a new District formed.

April 1, 1889--Petition of Parnell and Melke to form a new Union District.

April 8, 1890--Petition for new Union District.

Having found no additional notes that this action taken was not legal it is believed this is when the Union District was officially formed.

In the Record Book of Champaign County Teachers 1887-1888 which was located in the courthouse, they listed Nathan Weston as a teacher at the "West" School. Also, in the Record Book of Champaign County Teachers 1896-97 we find that Luella Bond Rayburn was the teacher for "Union West No. 6" School. We believe the West School and the Union West School are the same and that probably this school was started about 1864, although this is quite debatable. Even though they are petitioning for a new Union District in 1890 it would seem that there was a teacher recorded for this school in 1887. Members of the Board of Directors were listed for Union in 1870 in the Board of Trustees Book.

Mrs. Lydia Guy of Tuscola, an early student at the North School, writes, "I remember the country school, Union, south of Mahomet, near the Leach farm on the road we traveled when going there. I went with my Mother always to Mahomet when she took her carpet rags to a woman there who wove them. I also remember the house that they said was 'haunted' because a man hung himself in it. I was always afraid when we passed it. When I was a child, Kate Gleason used to come to our house and sew for us; we thought so much of her. We went to school with her sister, Daisy, but I never knew her sister, Mae."

Merle Hayward Clapper writes, "I started to school in 1898. My mother walked me to the corner where I met the Lon Jones, Sr. children (Maude, Guy and Floyde) who helped me carry my dinner pail. My first



day, I met the Douglas Parnell children (Clara, William, Lena and Bertha) and the George Miller children (Mae, Pet, Elmer and Wilson), the Fred Barber children (Jessie, Orville, Bert, Mabel and Frank), the Cole children (Ethel and Esther) and the Morfey children (Dan, Lige, Jim, Effie, Ivan and Carl). Ella Herriott and Clark Dillavou were in school then, too. The teacher was R. E. Lucas who drove a horse hitched to a two-wheel cart or rode horseback. He was nearly always late, usually came about 9:30 or 10:00 o'clock. The big boys (men, really) in the eighth grade made the fire in the winter in the old pot-bellied stove. We had parties and danced a little until Mr. Lucas arrived.

"One day in the fall we decided to have a 'corn carnival,' as we called it. We were across a field near the edge of the corn on the Parnell farm and stayed out in the field and played games all day. I was one of the younger ones. We all went out except Clara Parnell, Mae Miller and Ella Herriott. When we got back we had to line up in front of the school and say 'I am sorry for what I did; I will never do it again.'

"I don't remember much about Mr. Wiles who was another one of our teachers. One of our teachers threw a few ink bottles at some of the boys."

The children were taught to spell by saying "double the letter" versus pronouncing the letter each time, such as the word "foot" would be spelled "f-double o-t," rather than "f-o-o-t." When one of the Morfey boys was reading his lesson, according to "Bill" Hayward, the teacher, (as related to us by Mrs. Ella Herriott Primmer, Besse Miller and others who agreed), the Morfey boy was reading his lesson on "Up, Up, Lucy" but he read it as "Double up, Lucy," thus making all the children laugh. Of course, he could see no reason why the doubling wouldn't work in reading as it had in his spelling.

Mr. Vern Rittenhouse, an early student at Union School, tells that he was in the first grade the year they had what they called their 'corn carnival' and played hookey all day from school. Quoting from Mr. Rittenhouse, "Our favorite game was 'Town Ball' which was a form of baseball but you just threw the ball in front of the person to get him 'out' rather than having to touch him. There were other rules that were also different but I have almost forgotten how we did play it. Both the boys and the girls played.

"We used to have some good fights at school and our dinner buckets were our handiest weapon as something to get hold of. That meant we oftentimes had sore heads and our dinner buckets were quite beat up and almost round in shape by the end of the school year.

"Another activity we always pursued was going across the road from school into Joe Grindley's pasture and there we drowned out ground squirrels and fought bumblebees. Oftentimes, we had our eyes almost swollen shut from being stung. Then a Mrs. Susan Cole Webster lived south of the school on what is now the Parnell farm. Mrs. Webster had

an orchard that we boys liked to visit. Her two daughters were in school and would go home for dinner and they would help their mother guard the apple orchard so that we boys could not make off with too much of her fruit.

"Mr. R. E. Lucas was my teacher when I was in the first grade and other teachers there at Union were 'Bill' Hayward, Hannah Huber and Nate Wiles. From Union we moved to the Wright School District."

The last year for this school to be opened was 1946-47. The Union School still stands on its original land but has been made into a country home.

Loula Grace Erdman wrote an article which appeared in the September 1962 issue of The Christian Herald on "The Schools that Grew America." She was talking of the one-room country school when she said, "We played together on a common playground--usually in the same games. The older ones soon learned that if they were to have players enough for a game at all, they must endure the presence of the younger ones. The younger ones learned, in turn, that they must ask for no special favors. The older children developed a sense of responsibility and the little ones grew up fast....The big boys brought balls and bats from home. Not only did we furnish our own equipment, we also made up our own games....Classes went up to the front of the room to recite before the teacher's desk. There was something about the fact that we went to her which made us realize her worth a little more surely....She was an authority seated in state. It was no wonder then that we sat and listened to the other classes reciting to her, just as they listened to us when our time came. In that way, both our mistakes and our triumphs were a part of the general knowledge of the group....for one always sat listening to the others reciting until I felt I could take the place of any hesitant student...."

"One of the big events of the school year was when teacher came home with us for supper and to spend the night. Here was the real foundation for good parent-teacher relations. Whatever the rural teacher lacked--adequate salaries, lighter teaching loads, good living conditions, teaching aids--she certainly possessed in full measure 'standing in the community.' The dinner mama cooked for her(or him) was every bit as delectable as the one she prepared for the Presiding Elder or our city kin. We worked up a fine glow over the whole affair, a glow which lasted into the next day, even past the time we opened our lunch boxes which we knew contained duplicate meals of the one teacher would find in her box.... Teacher seemed to forget all about her visit by the second day. Had she not done so, the other children would not have allowed us any delusions of grandeur. After all, teacher went home with all of us before the year was over...."

"That was perhaps the secret of the success of the one-room country school. It was tailor-made to fit our needs. Daily we were taught not only book knowledge but lessons in ingenuity, independence, self-reliance and tolerance as well. We drew in love of freedom with the air we breathed....But even when the last one (country school) is boarded up, as doubtless will happen sometime, its pupils sent off by bus to town or consolidated schools, the essence of it will remain. For it was a spirit and an ideal. It was America, shaping its children into citizens ready to meet the responsibilities that would be theirs. It was democracy, junior grade, in action."

## CHAPTER XII

### THE HARRIS (CARTER) SCHOOL

The Harris School was located approximately three and one-half miles southwest of Mahomet.

THE HARRIS SCHOOL, District 230, Section 28, Township 20, Mahomet, Range 7. The Record of the Deed for this school is in the Recorder's Office, Book 131, page 66. B. F. Harris and Carrie E. Harris, District 230, Mahomet Township 20, 1/2 acre. To be used for school purposes only and at such time when real estate above described is not used for school purposes it will revert to Grantors above stated. March 31, 1903. Filed April 1, 1903.

The Harris School was one of the latest country school districts formed. The District of Cherry Grove was broken into two districts, one district remaining Cherry Grove and the other one becoming the Harris School, originally known as the Carter School. Details on the breaking up of this district are recorded under "Districting and Platting" in an earlier chapter in this book.

Teachers are listed for the first time for this school in the years 1902-1903.

The last year for this school to be opened was 1946-47.

~~The Harris School was moved from its location to just south of, but next to, the Union School and was~~ remodeled and made into a country home.

## CHAPTER XIII

### THE WRIGHT SCHOOL

The Wright School was located approximately five miles northwest of Mahomet.

WRIGHT SCHOOL, District 32, originally District No. 3, Section 29, Township 20, Mahomet, Range 7. The Record of the Deed for this school is in the Recorder's Office, Book 76, Page 407, P. 5. James S. Hannah and Sina J. Hannah, one acre for a schoolhouse site, dated November 21, 1874. Filed April 26, 1886.

Mrs. Effie Wright Scott, past eighty-five years of age, tells "Sina J. Hannah was my mother's sister and the land for this school was a part of the farm of my grandmother, Sarah McKinnon Baner, who bought a half section of land and moved on to the ground in 1850.

"My first teacher was Anninas P. Johnson who applied for the school in his bare feet in 1879. He taught for just the one year. Mr. Johnson was a relative of Effie Johnson Gossard and later taught in Urbana and from there went to Kankakee as Superintendent. Other teachers in these early days were H. J. Morehouse, Miss Anna Gouch, Eva Mussen, Dora Cochran, Nellie Cochran and Cora Pugh Purnell. The Cochran sisters were relatives of Jim Ware. Nellie Cochran taught once during the summer term. They would have school starting in September for six months and then we would be off for the month of March and then we would have school for a summer term of three months, or sometimes the summer term was for only two months. My father, Robert Wright, taught this school before teaching at the Wright School.

"In the school were long benches upon which we all sat. Our books were shoved underneath these benches in a sort of box. In the middle of the schoolroom would be the stove.

"The Dunkards had a church which was approximately one and one-half miles from the school. When these people would pass by our school on their way to the Sangamon River, where they would have their baptismal services, we children would climb on to the back of their spring wagons and ride along and watch the baptisms, too.

"I taught the six-months' term and then had the month of vacation in March and then taught the three months' summer term. That fall I started teaching but decided to get married, and no one ever taught after she got married in those days, so I called in the Board to hand in my resignation and when I did so then I presented to them their new teacher, my relative, George Wright, who was later the Assistant Superintendent of Schools of Champaign County.

"I disliked going to school; in fact, I just despised it. I would pretend to be sick and would stay home when I was not sick at all. Once my mother made me a new dress and I was so thrilled with that dress, but all of the thrill was entirely gone when mother tried it on me and then the only way I could wear it on that Monday morning was by attending school that day. At the thought of having to attend school, the pleasures of the new dress vanished at once."

It is interesting to know that in later life Mrs. Scott was the Probation Officer in the City of Champaign for years, and of course her job was to make the children attend school. She knew all the "ins" and "outs" of this job for she herself had played hooky as a child too often.

The record in the office of the County Superintendent of School's Office shows Cora Pugh Purnell as the teacher in 1887-1888. Mrs Purnell's daughter, Charlotte Busey, says that Mrs. Purnell's pupils in the first grade were Roscoe Myers, Elim Hawbaker and Moses James, and that one of her mother's happiest experiences in her advanced years and shortly before her death was a visit made to her by Moses James who too was an elderly man at that time.

In a Sucker State article of information compiled by E. W. Morrison, Article No. 604, we read, "The boys at the Wright country school, some 65 years ago, stunned a very large bull snake and coiled it neatly on the front step of the schoolhouse with the head in the doorway. The teacher, Miss Abbie Nebeker, a daughter of Washington Nebeker, whom the boys delighted to tease, was greatly shocked."

Mr. Verne Rittenhouse moved to the Wright School District from the Union School District and relates his first teacher in this District was Mrs. Ella Herriott Primmer, followed by Mrs. J. Buchanan (Rose Hazen), "Nate" Wiles and Mrs. Olive Wright. Mr. Rittenhouse seems to have started in at this school where he left off at Union--raiding the apple orchard but this time it was the orchard of Mr. Roscoe Myers. Of course, the other boys in the school were "in on it" too.

Mrs. Ella Herriott Primmer writes, "Mrs. Frank Wright is the one who said I should teach. She took me out to the Wright School and I got the job. I had twenty-six pupils, all grades, and in the late fall, two of Charles Pittman's boys came and I taught them first year high. In the spring, before these boys left, their little brother started so I had seven from that family. I received \$40. a month. That looked like big money to me. I went to Champaign the Saturday after getting my check and spent \$17 for a fur neckpiece and a bottle of expensive perfume that set me back \$1.50. Most of the rest went to Uncle John who had advanced the money for my graduation."

Mrs. Ferne Hoyt Williamson tells, "I was teaching at the Wright School in 1914 and that was the year we had the big snow. I ordinarily drove out to the school by going past the Sloan home so that 'Dot' might ride with me for her parents were living in the Mahomet Town District

at the time but were paying her tuition so that she might attend Wright School. This morning the drifts were so deep that I decided to not go by Sloans but would go by what is now the turkey farm and it was here that my buggy got stuck for the drifts were higher than the buggy so I unhitched my horse and rode back to town as far as Wilson Miller's. Then members of the board came for me in a big sled and took me to school. That week I stayed with Rittenhouses and their son, Verne, who was in high school, stayed in town with my folks.

"One other time the drifts were so deep that we could not get our buggy through so 'Dot'Sloan and I both rode my horse into town. At that time the teacher was responsible for washing the big roller towel which the teacher provided for the pupils to use. It was Friday night so I was taking the towel home to be laundried so we hung our dinner buckets around our neck on the roller towel. The teacher was also responsible for washing the window curtains."

The Wright School is still standing, although quite deserted, on its original plot of ground.



## CHAPTER XIV

### THE HANNAH SCHOOL

Although the Hannah School was in Newcomb Township it was near enough to Mahomet that it must be covered in our History of Mahomet Schools. The Hannah School was located approximately four miles straight north of Mahomet on what is now Route 47.

In Cunningham's Historical Volume of 1905 the statement was made that the township was divided into eight school districts and that the township was behind no other township in the character of its schools.

HANNAH SCHOOL, District no. 33, originally District No. 4, Newcomb Township 21. The earliest teacher listed for the Hannah School, according to the records of teachers in the County Superintendent of School's office was Emma Judy in 1887-1888.

With the permission of Dr. Joseph Scott, we are printing below a theme which he wrote about 1930. It tells in detail the history of this early school.

#### THE HANNAH SCHOOL, AN EARLY SCHOOL IN CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

By Joseph Scott

"It was in the year 1852 that the settlers of Newcomb township, Champaign County, realized the need of a public school and started the construction of the first schoolhouse in that township. Previous to this time school was taught by Miss Martha Newell in Jesse Pancake's old house.

"This new structure was located in Section 27 about three and a half miles north of Mahomet, or as it was called in those days, Middletown. It was about eighteen feet long and sixteen feet wide. It was made of rough logs plastered together with a homemade clay composition. On one side there were two windows, and at the front there was a heavy door made of wide slabs of split logs. An old thumb latch was used in place of a knob.

"Upon entering the building one did not find the walls decorated and plastered, but instead only the split side of the logs and the dried plaster. The large rafters and home manufactured shingles furnished the cover overhead. The floor was made of unfinished oak boards.

"At the back of the room was a fireplace which, for the few years, furnished all the heat. A stove was later installed. Many times at recess and other intervals the boys often sat around it with their girls.

"The seating arrangement was very simple as there were only two rows of benches stretching across the room. In front of these were frame work structures with slanting eighteen-inch boards on top which were used as desks. The older children sat in the back row and the younger ones sat in the front row.

"At times the school accommodated as many as forty students. They came from a radius of approximately three miles.

"Reuben Banes, son of Dr. Evan Banes of Ohio, was the first teacher. He was a young man about twenty-five years old who had come to Illinois to seek his fortune.

"Mrs. Robert Wright, born in 1846, an eighty-three year old resident of Champaign County, who now resides in Urbana, was one of the early scholars in the Hannah school. It is from her that this information has been gained.

"In 1851, when Mrs. Wright was five years old, she emigrated with her parents, Sarah and Gabriel Banes, from Bellfountain, Ohio, into Champaign county. She has lived here ever since.

"When the Baneses passed through Champaign on their way to Middletown, where they spent their first year, there were only six houses in town.

"The next year, while Mr. Banes was entering his land at Danville, the family rented a farm two miles north of Middletown. That year, Mrs. Wright attended a small school in the timber, taught by a Mr. Cheney. During the hot weather he held classes outside.

"In 1853 they moved on their new 400-acre farm in Newcomb township. It was then that Mrs. Wright started to the Hannah school.

"The chief subjects taught were Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Spelling, Geography and Grammar. It was very seldom that anyone ever studied Algebra. Quite unique methods of teaching were used in this early school. There were several very large outline maps which were, just as they say, outlines of the states with no printed names on them. These showed the rivers, lakes and other natural lines. The scholars were given pointers and while they pointed out places on the map they would sing its location to a familiar or sometimes original tune. The following is an example:

Ohio river 1300  
Ohio river 1300  
  
Mississippi 4100  
Mississippi 4100

These told the length of the rivers while they were being pointed out. Another tune sung was the description of the capitals of the states:

Maine, Augusta on the Kennebec river  
Maine, Augusta on the Kennebec river  
  
New York, Albany on the Hudson  
New York, Albany on the Hudson

"The writing lessons were taught by means of copy books in which were samples of good letters, numbers etc. and blank spaces for the scholar to copy in. So much time each day was devoted to the work in

these copy books. The spelling lessons were taught very similar to the modern methods. The children were divided into classes and each class would recite separately. When a person missed he had to sit down.

"There was no well on the school grounds so the boys had to go to a neighboring house about a quarter of a mile away. They many times returned with a supply of apples which they had stolen from the neighbor's apple hole, a place in the ground for storing apples.

"During the spring plowing season, Mrs. Wright often rode part way to school on the back of the plow. As it was driven by a team of oxen it moved very slowly; thus making it necessary for her to 'run like sixty' the rest of the way in order to get there on time.

"One of her teachers owned a set of Charles Dickens' works which she enjoyed reading a great deal, but as her parents were very strict they thought them unfit. It happened, however, that there was an old two-story empty log house between the school and her home. Many times she started to school early so she could stop at the old house and read a few chapters in those supposedly terrible novels which are taught in most all schools today.

"During one term of school her mother brought her to Champaign to stay with her older brother. While there she attended Mrs. Janes' subscription school which was held in a rented house. The tuition was three to four dollars a month. Mrs. Janes had about thirty scholars. Mrs. Wright went here only one term.

"In the winter time the snow would get so deep that it almost covered the stake and rider fences, and she could walk along on the stakes.

"In order to keep the prairie fires back from the school and homes the men would either plow or burn a strip of ground around the yards. These were most terrifying. A smoke would rise in the west and soon the huge roaring flames would come in sight.

"Among the teachers who taught Mrs. Wright are a Mr. Ingles, Miss Carson, and Miss Hathaway, all of whom were wonderful in the estimation of this early scholar.

"In 1862, when she was sixteen, she went to school to Robert Wright, a young teacher who with his brother had driven a flock of sheep from Ohio to Illinois. This resulted in an interesting courtship followed by their marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Wright lived together in Champaign county for over sixty-five years, and have seen the development of the local schools from one-roomed log cabins teaching the three 'R's' to the modern structures with their complicated systems of education."

Mrs. Effie Wright Scott, the mother of the author of the above theme, says, "My grandmother Wright was six years of age when she came

to Illinois and started to the Hannah School. She was married when seventeen years of age to her teacher, Robert Wright, eight years her senior."

The C.B. Hoit children were some of the pupils who attended this school.

When the country schools were being closed and sold, this Hannah School was purchased by Stanley Chapman and was moved to the Chapman farm and remodeled into a cow barn.

The last year for this school to be in session was 1946-47.

#### COUNTRY SCHOOL HOUSE TO BE A MUSEUM

Many of our teachers have been students and/or graduates from the Illinois State Normal University (ISNU). In the ISNU News Letter and its Supplement, October 1962, we read:--The enrollment Fall Semester 1962 at ISNU is 6,016 and there are already 565 enrolled in Extension classes. The Bureau of Appointments at ISNU had 26 times as many requests for teachers this year as the University had graduates during 1962.

A one-room country school house was moved to the ISNU campus this summer and plans are now underway to establish the building as a museum with furnishings and equipment typical of its period.

Refurbishing the country school has been adopted by the Alumni Association as a project to help commemorate the Centennial year (1963). The idea of procuring an old school and setting it up on the ISNU campus has won the support of many alumni. Several offers of period equipment have been made to University officials, including a set of McGuffey Readers, a school bell, pot-bellied stove, old desks, and seats.

The one-room school has played such an important role in the history of public education that it is appropriate for Illinois State Normal University to want to preserve its memory. The country school house made into a museum will give future students preparing to teach in modern schools some idea of conditions under which their predecessors taught.

The above article does not pertain to Hannah School but because so many teachers are interested in ISNU it seems only fitting that a recent news article on the country school house as a museum should be printed, and there was room on this page for such an article.

## THE OAK GROVE SCHOOL

The Oak Grove School is located approximately seven miles north-east of Mahomet.

OAK GROVE, District No. 34, Newcomb Township 21. This school was located right on the line of the Fisher District so that many of the boys and girls who graduated attended high school in Fisher rather than in the Mahomet-Seymour District.

Mr. Dan Crowley, an octogenarian and an early pupil at this school (although like other farm boys attended school only during the winter months when there was not farm work to be done) has listed for us, with the help of his brother, Lew, the early teachers of Oak Grove which are reported in a later chapter.

Mary Crowley says the enrollment of this school was always large enough that the game of the day was baseball. There were always plenty of boys and girls for a good team and the pupils at this school would enter into baseball competition with other country schools nearby. Mary furnished the picture which is shown below.

The school was torn down and the ground went back into what is now known as the Dan Crowley farm (formerly the Ora Crowley farm). The last term for this school to be in session was 1947-1948.



Teacher and Pupils of Oak Grove School -- 1939

First row, left to right-- Jerry Brownfield, Lowell Estes, Victor Hadler, Robert Spencer, Eugene Crowley, LaVanne Estes, Henry Neader, Mary Hunter, Joanne Hunter, Maurice Hunter, Donald Bryant. Second row-- Jimmie Fink, Maurice Hunter, Lydan Estes, Dottie Long, Betty Hunter, Phyllis Leitz, Ruth Crowley, Charles Hadler, Duane Brownfield, Henry Hadler. Top row-- Tom Brownfield, Edith Abernathie (teacher), Leland Fink, Bill Sherman, Doris Reader, Charles Sherman, Lawrence Hadler, James Estes, Barbara Reeder, Tommy Spencer, Dolly Neader.



## CHAPTER XVI

### THE NORTH SCHOOL

The North School was located approximately four and one-half miles south of Mahomet.

NORTH SCHOOL, District 24, originally District No. 7, Section 2, Township 19, Scott, Range 7. The Record of the Deed for this school is in the Recorder's Office, Book 47, page 49, P. 4. Scott Township No. 19, for \$1.00, Elijah Cade and Eliza Cade September 26, 1874, 1/2 acre. Schoolhouse site and for no other but school purposes. Filed June 24, 1875.

Mrs. Mae Gleason Rayburn, at the age of ninety, wrote, "The first North School was built south of the road on the Smith Section. A local minister came so often to preach to the new settlers. They were busy settlers but also wanted to establish God's word. My father, a Scotchman, was Superintendent of the Church School for three years and during that time missed only three days.

"Later on, Elijah Cade, an Englishman, and his wife bought eighty acres across the road from the original school. They built a nice house on the southeast corner. Just west of the house was a large pond. Mr. Cade gave a part of his land to have a schoolhouse built upon it. My father, Horace Benjamin Gleason, a carpenter, mason, bricklayer and plasterer, was glad to be employed to help pay for the land he was buying so he did the plastering for the school and helped dig a well, built the two toilets and later a coal house. There were several large trees and a long row of willows northwest of the schoolhouse. The pond by the Cade home was nice for sliding or skating. Just one boy had skates. I have a card which a teacher, Mary Barker, gave Alice, my sister for good behavior.

"This Elijah Cade did tiling for a living. They were very nice people. They sold out to a Mr. Goodman who had come from Peoria. The eighty acres east of Cades was bought by a Presbyterian, a Mr. Canby and his son-in-law, Mr. Malory, did his farming. They visited my folks for anyone who wanted new soles on his shoes, harness mended, haircuts, etc. came to my father. I have a picture of the North schoolhouse when Harry Miller was teaching."

Miss Lydia Guy of Tuscola writes, "We lived one mile and a quarter northwest of Bondville and we children attended the North School which was west of us. Our teachers were Minnie and Ollie Crawford, Harry Miller, Cora Parsons, Stella Bushee, Maud Collins and a Miss Hubbard."

This school was closed in 1946-1947.



## CHAPTER XVII

### OTHER SCHOOLS--KOOGLER, SOUTH PRAIRIE, CRESAP, WHITE HALL, AND PIONEER

KOOGLER SCHOOL, District 25, Section 8, Township 19, Scott, Range 7. Recorder's Office Book 48, page 79, P. 4. School District No. 1, Scott Township 19, Champaign County. \$1.00 for 1/2 acre. Samuel Koogler. September 19, 1874. Filed July 12, 1875.

SOUTH PRAIRIE SCHOOL, District 19, Section 26, Township 19, Scott, Range 7. Recorder's Office Book 64, page 436, P. 17. School District No. 3, Scott Township No. 19, Champaign County. \$25.00. Watkins L. Ryder and Mary E. Ryder, April 17, 1882 (to be fenced on South and West sides). Filed April 20, 1882. Revert if not used as a common school.

CRESAP SCHOOL, District 21, Section 30, Township 19, Scott, Range 7. Recorder's Office Book 107, page 304, P. 3. School District No. , Scott Township No. 19, Champaign County. \$1.00. Benj. J. Cresap and S. A. Cresap, his wife. May 28, 1896. 3/4 acre to be used for school-house site and for no other but school purposes. Title reverts if not used as such. Filed same day, May 28, 1896.

WHITE HALL SCHOOL, District 20, Section 33, Township 19, Scott, Range 7. Recorder's Office Book 44, page 152, P. 4. School District No. , Scott Township No. 19, Champaign County. \$39.37 1/2. Andrew J. Dighton and Sarah J. Dighton, September 3, 1872. 1 1/8 acres. The schoolhouse erected shall be open for religious or political meetings provided they do not interfere with the school. Filed March 18, 1890.

PIONEER SCHOOL is not in the Mahomet Township nor the Mahomet-Seymour Unit but in Hensley Township, 20; yet because it is near our community some information is being recorded. Pioneer School, District 73, old District No. 2. In the Biographical Sketches on persons in Champaign County, published in 1900, we read, "George Frankenburger (grandfather of Ruth Frankenburger Yount)--the first schoolhouse in District No. 2, Hensley Township (this would be the Pioneer School) was in the fall of 1852 and our subject was the pupil of Miss Margaret Scott (Margaret was the daughter of J. R. Scott, and J. R. Scott and Fielding Scott were brothers.) the first teacher here."

## CHAPTER XVIII

### OUR SCHOOLS--CIVIL WAR DAYS AND ON TO THE TURN OF THE CENTURY

#### LEARNIN' IN THE GAY NINETIES

#### FORTY YEARS OF SCHOOL IN THE "OLD BRICK"

Prof. J. O. Smith of the Theoretical and Applied Mechanics Department of Engineering at the University of Illinois was one of the members of the Committee who worked on College Land Grants. Prof. Smith quotes Dr. Allan Nevins, well-known historian who has retired from the Columbia University, was at one time a winner of the Nobel and Pulitzer prizes, and one who has done much research on our Land Grant Colleges, as having said that in 1861, which was the year when Abraham Lincoln was elected to the Presidency and marked the beginning of the Civil War period, there were only three high schools in the State of Illinois and in 1867 there were ten high schools in the State.

The Board of Directors Record of School District No. 2, Township 20, from 1863-1881 gives to us an historical account of Mahomet's town schools so I shall quote verbatim from this record.

August 3, 1863--The election was held for the purpose of electing one school director and also for the purpose of levying a tax for the purpose of building a new schoolhouse....Forty votes cast for the levy of the tax and one vote against.

January 1864--33 votes were cast for purchasing Tucker's site for the schoolhouse; 9 votes were cast for the old site. It is therefore declared that the directors purchase a new site.

March 11, 1865--Election was held for the purpose of selecting a site for the new schoolhouse. The votes being counted, the result was as follows: (21) Twenty one for old site with Dunseth's lot for an addition; (1) one vote for old site and (1) one vote for Webb's site near the Methodist Church. The old site with Dunseth's addition, having the majority, it was declared that this site had been carried.

April 10, 1865--At a meeting of the directors of District No. two, Town 20, R 7 E, a contract was entered into with Joseph B. Johnson for the erection of a new schoolhouse, the conditions of which were as follows: J. B. Johnson, A. F. Pittman and John Willets enter into a bond, the penalty of which is eight thousand dollars to erect a new schoolhouse with stone foundation, brick walls 32 x 52 ft., two stories high for the sum of \$4824, two thousand to be paid down, \$1324 when the roof is on and \$1500 when the building is completed. An order was drawn on the treasurer for \$1797.83. One on T. R. Seal for \$205.93 and a brick kiln put in at seven hundred dollars making \$2700.00 for which the directors took a receipt on the back of the bond. \$3.75 was paid for bond, stamps etc. J. D. Gardiner, President; John McHugh, Clerk.

April 19, 1865--Paid 175 and executed a note for 175 to S. N. Dunseth for Lot in Middletown for schoolhouse site. They also sold to John Carter the old stable on said lot for \$20 for which they took his note four months from date drawing 10%,...Received of J. E. Cox \$10.85 on fence bought at auction sometime ago.

August 7, 1865--Vote to be taken for a tax to keep up a school for ten months....It was also declared to have carried. A job was also let for the building of seats for new schoolhouse at \$2.95 for desk to be built according to pattern. The directors of school district met according to previous notice to let the building of two out houses for the use of school district and contracted with Hamilton Miller (he being the lowest bidder) for the sum of \$58, said houses to be 5 x 6 ft. square, built in good workmanlike manner and painted white.

August 1865--expenditure of \$2285.35 to J. B. Johnson for schoolhouse.

November 17, 1865--met with J. B. Johnson to accept the completed building at \$4872.16 (\$48.16 being for extra work). Old house was sold to Johnson for \$65.

September 30, 1866--Received \$6.00 tuition for one person for three months.

March 1867--Expenditure of \$1.88 for chopping 2 1/2 cords of wood.

October 1867--Expenditure of \$15 to H. Swannell for clock.

November 14, 1867--expenditure of 25 cents to Sprague for hauling stove from Champaign.

November 26, 1867--expenditure of 30 cents to H. Swannell for lamp chimney, large size.

Mrs. Lillie Todd Thomas, a member of the graduating class of 1897, describes this original brick school building which they started planning for in August of 1863 but which was not completed until November 1865--"The brick building had four rooms with the stairway in the middle. They had the third and fourth grades and the fifth and sixth grades downstairs--two rooms for the four grades; they had the grammar school, 7th and 8th grades, upstairs in one room, and the high school in another room. The grammar school was the larger room and it was on the west side of the building and the high school division ( a three-year high school at that time) was on the east side, upstairs. They were still having the first and second grades in the white wood frame building which was separate, and to the back of the brick."

One of the earliest records for Champaign County history is J. S. Lathrop's Champaign County Directory 1870-71. The only mention made of our town in this book was that there was one graded school in the Town of Mahomet with the town's population at that time being 670.

The 1870's were quiet, schoolwise. In the Record Book for the School District it was recorded on June 14, 1879 that the salaries

for the ensuing year would be: Principal \$65 and the assistants \$35.00 but on September 27, we find that May Carle was elected as the assistant for the intermediate grades at \$25 for three months. The teachers and the salaries were: J. V. Slone, Principal, \$65; D. B. Abbott, \$35; Chas. Sinnock, \$35; Helen J. Garson, \$35; and May Carle \$25 for three months.

The book shows some interesting expenditures which are recorded below. One recording is tuition paid by Silas Purnell and the year would indicate the tuition had been paid for his son, S. J. (grandfather of the author.) One wonders why Samuel J. wasn't attending the nearby country school, Martin. It is interesting to note the wages received for sweeping the room were 10 cents a day, or less.

January 1870--expenditure of 50 cents for a broom for Miller's room and 50 cents for a broom for Sizer's room.

Mrs. Sylva Morehouse Benson writes, "At the very top of the hill at Riverside Cemetery is a large monument with the name SIZER. He deserved to be at the very top for he was the teacher of the Civil War babies, including my mother, Laura Abbott Morehouse. I am sure he was a fine Christian gentleman as I remember hearing him mentioned many times."

Mr. E. W. Morrison says Mrs. Sackriter told him that she attended school at the old primary building which she said was built in 1872.

September 13, 1873--expenditure of \$4.25 for school bell and coil chain. (It later speaks of a bell rope so perhaps this was the large bell that was purchased.)

November 1873--Expenditure of \$3.10 for sweeping 39 days in Miss Robb's room. Expenditure of \$1.65 to T. J. McKinney for sweeping 19 days and fires.

December 1873--Received \$2.00 from S. (Silas) Purnell for tuition.

May 28--Expenditure of 10 cents to Webb for tin cup.

October 28, 1875--Received \$2.00 tuition from Effrim (incorrectly spelled and should be Ephraim) Herriott. (Ephraim would be the grandfather of "Colonel" Phillippe.)

November 16--tuition received for Kate Scott. (Again, are they careless in their recordings? Kate Scott and Sarah Scott, paternal grandmother of the author, were twins so why would there not be tuition received for both girls?)

Mrs. Sarah Murphy Spurgeon, our oldest known living pupil of the Mahomet Grade School, ninety three years of age, writes, "My first school teacher was Helen Carson. She taught in the grade school primary for several years. We always had to be on our toes and have a different piece to speak on each Friday. I spoke,

'Little drops of water, little grains of sand  
Make the mighty ocean, and the wondrous land.'

and "Mary had a little lamb." She thought she would chastise me and the plan was to paddle me on the hand. She was a wonderful teacher. I can not recall who my second teacher was but I believe it was Wigton. The next teacher who came along was that wonderful Bert (H.J.) Morehouse who was beyond reproach. Next was Oakwood, a dandy, and most girls loved him for his activity outdoors with all the pupils."

March 1877--Received \$7.50 tuition for Samuel Purnell.

In the Biographical Sketches published in 1900 we read something of the quality of Mahomet's schools and one of the pupils--"Alanson P. Tucker came to Urbana in 1854. He was the first to embark in the manufacture of brick in this county, and after his removal to Mahomet in 1861 he continued to engage in this business until his death. His son attended the common and high schools of Mahomet and in 1879 entered the office of Dr. O. F. Britton, a dentist in Champaign, with whom he studied until 1882 when he passed the examination of the state board and became a registered dentist."

1880--Tuition received of \$1.50. (Heretofore the tuition had been \$2. but the author believes the tuition varied as to whether it was for a primary graded child, or the other lower grades, or for a high school pupil.)

In the February 8, 1962 issue of the Mahomet Sucker State there was an article written by John Allen of the Southern Illinois University on the "disappearance of the one-room country school." In Allen's comments he made price comparisons. No records of expenditures made in the country schools around Mahomet were available but it is interesting to note the comparison in the expenditures of Mahomet's grade school record on brooms, cups, etc. It is interesting to notice that the prices were lower in southern Illinois than in Champaign County for we were paying ten cents for the cup (versus five cents as was recorded by Allen) and fifty cents for a broom (versus thirty cents as per Allen's article.) Other recordings for the article, in general, were very similar to the findings found on our Mahomet schools--country and town.

Recorded in the entries which appeared in these Board of Directors Record Books for the Mahomet District were the names of the teachers hired each year. Only occasionally have they been mentioned in this portion of the book --when there was something particularly interesting about how they were hired, or why, or the salary received, or the method of releasing them which would give the readers a clear view into our early schools. However, from these minutes was obtained the record of those teachers during this period and they have been recorded under "Teachers, and years taught"--another chapter in this book.

Continuing with entries from this early Record Book--

January 6, 1880--E. M. Murch's Grammar was adopted as textbook in all departments of said school. Also retain May Carle as teacher until her services could be dispensed with by decrease in attendance of pupils.

May 17, 1880--Motion to hire no teacher but what could show 1st class certificate.



June 19, 1880--Reading of applications. Jennie Pittman (stricken from roll), B. D. Abbott, May Carroll, C. Sinnock, Stults and wife, C.P. Page, T. J. Welch. Helen Carson was hired for eight months with privilege of nine months at option of directors. Motion to offer Mr. Morehouse for intermediate at \$37.50 per month

May 24, 1880--A. D. Sizer hired for Principal for eight months at \$75.00 per month. Morehouse hired for eight months at \$37.50 per month.

June 19, 1880--Miss Velma Skinner and Miss Jessie Coperrell was hired for \$37.50 each month. Scott & Davidson wood bid at \$2.40 per cord excepted. (Notice the spelling of the word "excepted" and the use of the word "was" by these board members who were so insistent that their teachers have first-class certificates.)

June 1880--expenditure of \$23.11 for painting schoolhouse.

September 1880--Paid \$24.40 to J. W. Starling for two stoves.

September 1880--expenditures to teachers:--H. J. Morehouse, \$37.50; A. D. Sizer, \$75.00; Vel Skinner, \$37.50; Helen Carson, \$37.50; and Jessie Cuppernell, \$37.50.

February 23, 1881--Meeting called to consider a proposition (they had spelled this word with two "p's") from D. Appleton & Co. to introduce their reader in school. D. Appleton & Co. hereby offers Appleton's Profusies (not sure of meaning of the word but the word is spelled as it appeared to be in this Book) Readers at even exchange, book for book of corresponding grade and kind to Dist. No. seven, Mahomet Township, Champaign County Illinois, Mahomet Graded School, for the American Educational Readers and McGuffey's Readers now in use in said schools. The Publishers to bear all expense of the change of books, said District to adopt Appleton's Readers for a period of four years from date. J. M. Wade, agent. On motion of J. C. Wright we hereby accept the above proposition of even exchange and adopt Appleton's Readers for a period of four years from this date by Appleton & Co., father agreeing to guarantee Future Prices as follows: First Reader, 20 cents; second, 32 cents; third, 42 cents; fourth, 56 cents, and fifth \$1.00 with 16 per cent discount. Dist No. 2, Township No. 20, North Range 7, East, Champaign County, State of Illinois, February 23, 1881, J. M. Barlow, Clerk.

(It is interesting that the Board accepts the proposition only if the father of Wade, a local boy, makes a guarantee on price.)

Employed teachers of the school in this District for the term of eight months, commencing September 1, 1881 and ending April 28, 1882:--A. D. Sizer, \$75.; Jessie Cuffernell, \$37.50; J. H. Morehouse, Velma Skinner, Helen J. Carson;and Charles Heyland, Janitor, \$13.50

May 14, 1881--H. J. Morehouse presented contract and certificate for the board's signature for \$40 per month. On Motion, the Board signed the contract allowing H. J. Morehouse forty dollars per month instead of thirty seven 50/100 dollars. Mrs. Jessie Cuffernell declines to except (notice spelling of the word "accept," again) the school board



orders, the clerk to communicate with Mrs. Fanny Stuart for the purpose of securing her as a teacher. Resolved that we give Charles Hyland \$15 per month instead of \$13.50, Heyland refusing to sign contract at \$13.50.

May 28, 1881--That Mary Belle Carson be employed--\$37.50

(It is interesting to note that the teacher, H. J. Morehouse, presented his application and contract to the Board of Education versus the Board presenting the same to the teacher for signature, as we do today.)

Some of the rules given to teachers and pupils, as recorded in the book--

Teachers may inflict punishment by detaining a pupil after school; by requiring a pupil to stand or sit in some specified place; or by whipping with a switch or strap; but no blows shall be inflicted with ruler or some inflexible substance, nor with a cow-hide, hickory rod, rope, knotted cord, or stick, etc.

The teacher is required to keep a record of punishments given--name of pupil to whom administered, time, cause, and be ready to show it to the board upon request.

Advice to Pupils: For cleaning your slate, you should provide yourself with a clean piece of sponge and should moisten it with clean water before school opens or at recess.

This advice given on the proper cleaning of the slate was probably one of the first steps taken in hygiene for we know there was, in the earlier days, the common drinking cup, roller towel etc. Proper hygiene habits were unknown and little practiced. The word "hygiene" has not been with us too long. Mr. Philip Mohr, uncle of the author, was reading aloud on this new idea of hygiene. He read, "Stop all medicines and use hygiene"(but then pronounced hī<sup>u</sup>ge nē.)

In the School District Book 1882-1896 are listed the bond levies for these years which were: 1882--\$500; 1883--\$2500; 1884--\$2500; 1885--\$1800; 1886--blank; 1887--blank; 1888--blank; 1889--\$2000; 1890--\$1700; 1891--\$2000; 1892--\$2000; 1893--\$2200; 1894--\$2000; 1895--\$2200; 1896--\$2500; 1897--\$1800 and 1898--\$2000. A statement was made that the Directors had made the levy all right but that two per cent of the assessed value did not afford the desired amount of money and therefore they ran behind until 1895 when they were able to catch up.

This book contained the record of annual school meetings from April 15, 1882 to 1890, special school meetings, school officers and their terms of office, proceedings of district board, teachers contracts and reports, register of teachers employed, rules and regulations printed and adopted, register of orders drawn on the school treasurer, record of school bonds issued, record of official school visits, list of textbooks adopted by the school board, township treasurer's statement of district funds and the semi-annual statement such as the one from April 4 to October 1, 1882 which showed a District two-mill tax that brought in \$315.58, and the illiteracy reports.

Some of the entries and reports--

April 17, 1882--voted to have seven months school (78 for and 28 for eight months).

May 13, 1882--Applications--T.L. Massachett for Principal, Miss Fanie Farris, Miss Dora Brown and Miss Eva Mussmen for Primary. Ordered placed on record. On motion of J. C. Wright that no stock be allowed to be fastened on school grounds.

May 27, 1882--Prof. A. D. Sizer prefers to accept a position as Principal for the ensuing term of 8 months at \$75. per month and thinks he can't accept a position at a less salary. Prof. H. J. Morehouse and Miss Helen J. Carson respectfully declines a position as teacher at any price, respectfully thanking the board. Miss Belle C. Carson is willing to accept her position at the same salary. Miss Velma Skinner has not been seen as yet. Another teacher hired besides A. D. Sizer and Belle Carson is Miss Dora Brown at \$35. Applications received, (Mr. T. L. Matchett of Springfield, Mr. and Mrs. D. T. Adams of Sadorus, Illinois) read and referred back. Miss Eva Mussmen and Miss Fannie Ferris referred to investigating committee. Miss Lovee E. and Lucy F. Kimler of Downers, Illinois recommended by Miss Jessie Davidson.

May 27, 1882--hired A. D. Sizer. Belle Carson turned in her contract. Miss Dora Brown asked further time to secure her certificate. Miss Evy E. Mussmen (new). Other applications read and referred: The Misses Kimlers of Downers, Miss May C. Perry of Saybrook and Miss Jennie Pittman.

June 1882--employed Miss Jennie Pittman, Miss Annie Dunlop, Mrs. Mary E. Flanigan and E. J. Cox. One closed bid for janitor of J. M. Offutt at \$13. per month and 50 cents per cord for sawing wood.

This book carried the contracts of some of the earlier teachers--A.D. Sizer, Jennie Pittman, E. J. Cox, Mary Flanigan, Annie Dunlop (1882 and 1883)

January 1883--Register of Orders drawn on Treasurer--

No. 247 to J. M. Offutt on School Fund for what purpose--Janitor services--\$23.00 (overdrawn \$10 on next month to help him out of a pinch.)

May 7, 1883--The analytical system of penmanship by George Sherwood and Company was adopted for four years, to go into effect from this date.

May 1883--same old corps of teachers

June 1883--Miss Dunlop and Miss Flanigan refused to accept \$35 and were given \$40. Jennie Pittman's and E. J. Cox's remained at \$35.

No. of males under 21 years of age--193

No. of females under 21 years of age--195

No. of males between the age of 6 and 21--154

No. of females between the age of 6 and 21--138

No. of graded schools--1

No. of months school was in session--9

No. of male pupils enrolled in school--128

No. of female pupils enrolled in school--143

No. of male teachers--1  
No. of female teachers--4  
No. of months taught by male teachers--8  
No. of months taught by female teachers--32  
Days attended in grade school--32,370  
No. of brick school houses--1  
No. of frame school houses--1  
No. of volumes bought by libraries--18  
Total no. of volumes now in school--23

August 25, 1883--old fence condemned and ordered foot lumber and hire a man to make a good fence on the northwest and east side at as low figure as the work could be done for.

#### RECORD OF ANNUAL SCHOOL MEETING.

Mahomet, Ills. April 15, 1883

The legal voters of School District No. Two, Township No. Twenty, Range No. Seven and County of Champaign and State of Illinois, pursuant to legal notice, held their annual meeting at the H. E. Burnett's office on Saturday the Fifteenth day of April, 1882, for the purpose of electing one School Director, in the place of Joal M. Barlow, whose term of office this day expires.

The polls were opened at three o'clock P.M. and closed at Five o'clock P.M., according to previous notice, legally given.

At the close of the polls, the votes given being previous canvassed, it was ascertained that forty-nine votes were given, for the following persons, viz:

Joel M. Barlow	received	forty-nine votes,
	received	votes

Whereupon, Joel M. Barlow was declared to be legally elected to the office of School Director from this District, for the term of three years from this date.

The votes cast for the term of School during the school year commencing Sept. 4th, 1882, were as follows:

Twentys were given for six months school, and twenty nine votes were given for eight months school;

Whereupon, it was declared that the term of School in this same School District shall be taught eight months during the school year commencing Sept. 4th, 1883, and ending April 31, 1883.

No other business to be done, the meeting adjourned without date,

Joel M. Barlow, District Clerk

Per Horney

## RECORD OF OFFICIAL SCHOOL VISITS.

Mahomet      February 6      18   84

~~We~~ ~~Officers~~  
I, THE UNDERSIGNED, School Officer for this District, in company with \_\_\_\_\_  
~~who were invited by us for the purpose, this~~  
day visited the School in this District, taught by Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ A.D. Sizer  
The Misses Pittman, Dunlop and Flanigan and Mrs. Cox

The Teachers' Daily Register and other School Records are correctly kept; 216 Pupils are enrolled; 27 Pupils were absent; 10 Pupils were tardy to-day; 22 pupils have withdrawn since the commencement of the term; 3463 days have been lost by the absence of Pupils from the School, and 16 days, 12 minutes, have been lost in the average by Pupils' tardiness during the term thus far. The Teacher has been tardy 4 times and lost 7 hours 20 minutes thereby.

The recitations were well conducted by the Teacher, and ably given by the classes on the whole. The question asked by the Visitors were answered.

The School has been in session 104 days this term. The order and management of the School is Good. The School Room is clean, and the School House in the main in a Good condition. The yards and out-houses also are in a Good condition. The School furniture is well cared for. The Apparatus, including Globes, Outline Maps, Historical Charts, etc., etc., are all in a fair condition. Except Globe

We regard the School as being under good discipline and in good  
working order. What surprises me was that the census showed that  
we have 292 pupils of school age in District and only 216  
enrolled in School.

Mr. McCormack made the  
visit with me.  
being unable to agree he  
refuses to sign the above  
report

(Both Mr. Horney and Mr. McCormick are school directors but per Mr. Horney's notation, Mr. McCormick refuses to sign the report.)

School books used: Olney's Geometry; Olney's Complete Algebra; Olney's Arithmetic Elements; Davis' Algebra, First Lessons; Norton's Philosophy; Cutter's Physiology; Tenney's Zoology; Swinton's U. S. History; Swinton's U. S. History, Con; Montich's Geography, Comprehensive; Montich's Geography, Third Part; Appleton's Series of Readers; Webster's Dictionary; Sanders' Spellers; Horny's Practical Grammar; Horny's Elementary Grammar; Guyat's Physical Geography; and George Shorewood & Co. Analytical Penmanship.

September 8, 1883--Expenditure of \$1.22 to J. H. Lott for 6 3/4 yard of window "blines." (Notice the spelling of the word "blinds.")

September 8, 1883--Mrs. Clark was ordered to procure an organ of Peterson and Loped at \$1.75 per month and have the old organ tuned.

September 9, 1883--Adopt Wright & Rays. Olney's Arithmetick (notice the spelling) be condemned and thrown out. Powall's "How to talk and how to Wright" (notice spelling) was adopted. Tuition changed to \$1.75.

September 18, 1883--Question of condemning Olney's Arithmetic and substituting Ray's High, Ray New Practical and White's Elementary Arithmetic was thoroughly discust (notice spelling of "discussed") and the Board adopted them by appropriating enough of the tuition money to take up Olney and pay the diferance (notice spelling of "difference") providing that an arrangement could be made with Mr. J. A. Carson and the Publishing House.

September 15, 1883--Mr. Sizer asked that the Directors adopt a set of rules governing the school. The Board instructed Mr. Sizer to adopt such rules as he could govern the school with till such time as the Directors would have time to frame such laws and present them and they would help enforce them.

December 21, 1883--J. M. Offutt sawed 12 cord wood--\$8.50

December 30, 1883--Resolved that the school be allowed to dismiss during holiday and that the teachers be allowed full pay for the time lost.

February 1884--That a new shelf in the second primary be made, that two new buckets, four? and two dippers and the window curtains fixt. (notice spelling of "fixed")

July 26, 1884--It was agreed that we would refloor the pimary with hard pine. Mr. Warner was appointed a committee to oversee and have the work done, allowing him five dollars for hauling lumber from Champaign. It was agreed that we would purchase fifteen new desks.

August 16, 1884--bought 12 desks at \$3.00 each.

September 13, 1884--Tuition--first and second Primary--\$1.00 each; intermediate--\$1.25; grammar, \$1.50; and High, \$1.75.

The Final exams were given for the first time in 1885 but Mahomet did not participate until 1886. For further information on this Final County Exam, and others, see the separate chapter which comes later.

March 1, 1885--Permission was given teachers to adjourn school Thursday evening, March 12 to Monday, March 16 to attend the annual Teachers



Association to be held at Bloomington, March 13 and 14, 1885. Principalship given to Miss Flanigan and if she refused it was to go to Morehouse.

June 1, 1885--J. H. Howorth elected to principalship; Mrs. Howorth for the primary position.

July 11, 1885--the clerk was instructed to write Miss Annie Dunlop regarding what seemed to have been a resignation of her position as teacher, and if a written resignation was sent in, to write to other parties who had applied for positions as teachers so as to fill the vacancy.

August 1885--to invite Miss Lydia Louk to put in a personal application for the position as teacher.

November 4, 1885--The clerk was instructed to correspond with Miss Mattie Wigton of Indiana and request her to put in a personal application for the position of teacher of the Grammar Department. \*

September 1886--Amount received by clerk of school board as tuition paid by non-resident pupils and turned over by clerk to the Treasurer was Frank Purnell, \$2. and Edward Purnell, \$2.00.

December 24, 1886--Board met at the office of Dr. Gardner and granted orders to teachers for 3/4 of a month each, also to Janitor, after which the Board adjourned. (It is presumed that 3/4 of a month's salary represents the fact that some Christmas vacation was taken, without pay.)

March 1887--Tuition received from Robert Davis--\$8.87 (It is believed this would be for Belle Davis Bryan)

April 1887--Tuition received from Robert Wright for his daughter--\$8.50 (It is believed this would be for Effie Wright Scott)

May 1, 1887--Since at various times and places the board have received the information that Miss Mary E. Flanigan accepts her old position at same pay as before, also that I. W. Howerth, J. M. Oakwood and Cora O. Howerth do not except (notice spelling of "accept") the tender made them by the board, when the Directors met on Saturday night at the residence of J. L. Stearn, they voted that J. M. Oakwood be tendered the Principalship of our school at a salary of \$70 per month and afterwards it was desired that this be withheld to await developments. It was likewise further ordered that the position of teacher of the Grammar Department be tendered to Miss Lottie Switzer of Philo which was done and she accepts the tender made at \$45. per month.

(We find no record of Miss Switzer ever having taught at Mahomet although according to the above notes she was offered the position. When Mrs. Charles S. Purnell attended the High School in Champaign in 1903-1904 Miss Switzer was Principal of the High School. Mrs. Purnell remembers how each Friday afternoon she was dismissed early from the school in order to catch the four o'clock train to Mahomet, although she would get off at the Rising Station which was closer to her home. On one Friday afternoon, Miss Switzer called out in a stern but clear voice--"Laura Rayburn," (at this the pupil was most frightened and wondered just what she had done), "You may go now." (The pupil was most relieved.) Laura Rayburn Purnell roomed and boarded in Champaign to attend the high school there. The school on North Prospect was named after Miss Switzer.)

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\*Miss Wigton not listed as a teacher by Board notes and yet Sarah Spurgeon writes that a Miss Wigton was one of her early teachers.



The first graduating class from the Mahomet High School, according to Charles Dale, was in 1887 with four graduates, namely: Wirt McCormick, Cora Pugh Purnell, Nelle Cochran and Charles D. Thomas. The high school commencement exercises were held in Abbott's Hall from 1887 to 1900 and again from 1909 to 1914. As reported earlier, Cora Pugh Purnell did teach at Wright School; Nelle Cochran taught in the Mahomet Grade School in 1891 and may have taught in surrounding country schools at an earlier date and Charles Thomas, an early teacher at Martin School, later became a lawyer. Mrs. Charlotte Busey reports that her mother's diploma, which is now in the hands of the great grandson, was signed by H. J. Morehouse and the Principal, Mr. Howerth.

The Board of Directors Book shows that tuition of \$21.00 was received from J. A. Bellinger in March 1888 (which would be for his daughter or daughters--Rose and Kate).

April 1, 1888--Programs for annual commencement were also ordered printed.

Mr. Dale reports that in 1888 there were four girls who graduated--Belle Davis Bryan, Maggie Steadyhart, Eva Shaeffer Rayburn and Hattie Bryan.

May 1st, 1889--The programme for Commencement Exercises was ordered printed at the expense of the district. Also Union Hall (believed to be the same as Abbott's Hall) to be secured for that occasion.

May 7, 1889--Paid \$3.50 to S. C. Abbott for Hall and paid \$4.00 to J. D. Brown for printing programs.

December 1, 1889--Prof. Rusk reported that he had suspended Charles Rowe from school to await the action of the Board. His Report was accepted and his action sustained. It was ordered by the Board that the teachers teach each and every school day except legal holidays but that each teacher who wishes to attend the State Teachers Convention could do so and their time and pay would be allowed the same as though they taught.

1889--Received \$16.00 for tuition of Belle Davis and \$5.00 for tuition of Fannie Davis.

January 2, 1890--The Mahomet Literary Society asked permission to use one room of the schoolhouse one evening in each two weeks to hold such exercises as pertained to such a society. Their request was granted on the following condition: that at least one teacher should be present, also that the above-mentioned Society should pay the janitor for his services and also for the fuel used, the janitor to say how much was used and all property to remain intact and the Board at any time to withdraw their consent and for any reason.

February 3, 1890--The clerk presented the request of Charles Rowe to be admitted into school again and it was ordered that as the former action was made with a full Board being present that action would be deferred until Mr. Carson could be present, he being confined at his home by sickness.

(Reason for his dismissal not given but probably wouldn't be dismissed today and not permitted back merely because all board members not present to vote.)

March 27, 1890--the Board ordered the various Departments closed for at least one week and the teachers so notified on account of diphtheria in the faculty of W. H. Rusk, the Principal of the School.

April 1st 1890--the same teachers as above, plus G. W. Wiles--\$40. The matter of opening school again being up for discussion it was decided that unless new cases of diphtheria developed that school should again open and that C. W. Menealey be secured if possible to teach in the high school department during the continued forced absence (by sickness in his family) of the principal. Each and everyone of the members of the Board were to speak to Mr. Menealey on sight about the matter of his filling such vacancy.

April 1890--Received from R. G. Rayburn \$5.25 for tuition. (Mrs. Charles Purnell reported that after the sixth or seventh grade, the child might go into the town of Mahomet and attend school. Mrs. Purnell's brother, William Rayburn, fought with a polecat and when he got inside the school room, when attending the Mahomet town grade school, he smelled so of polecat that the kids made fun of him and he never went back to school. No doubt this \$5.25 tuition paid by R. G. Rayburn was for this son, William.)

April 1, 1890 and 1891--Received tuition for Fannie and Ernest Davis--\$24.00

June 23, 1890--Miss Mary Slocum of Peoria was selected from applicants to teach 1st Intermediate Dept. for year 1890-91--\$40.

#### INVENTORY OF SCHOOL PROPERTY--June 24, 1890

##### Brick Building:

Library including 4 dictionaries	--\$80.50
12 window blinds at 50 cents, cost 75--spring	--\$ 6.00
3 maps	--\$ 5.00
1 physiological chart, cost \$34	--\$30.00
42 box chalk crayon, 6 cents	--\$ 2.52
5 clocks, \$4.00	--\$20.00
5 stoves, \$15	--\$75.00
1 bookcase	--\$ 5.00
certificates of promotion blanks	--\$ 1.35
1 1/2 gross lead pencils at 90 cents	--\$ 1.35
36 penmanship charts	--\$ 1.75
3 recitation seats, \$3.	--\$ 9.00
4 teachers tables and desks, \$2.50	--\$10.00
2 side lamps, 7-inch glass reflectors	--\$ 2.00
1 table for books etc., grammar Dept.	--\$ 2.00
1 lot erasers	--\$ 1.00
1 small bookcase	--\$ 1.00
7 rear seats (1/2 desks), \$1.00	--\$ 7.00
20 pictures	--\$10.00
13 chairs, \$.075	--\$ 9.75
87 desks, \$2.	--\$174.00
2 organs	--\$25.25

Primary Wood Building:	
7 rear seats, \$1.	--\$ 7.00
28 desks, \$2.	--\$56.00
2 pictures (oil) gilt frames, \$1.50	--\$ 3.00
1 chair & table	--\$ 2.75
6 window blinds (spring), \$0.50	--\$ 3.00

Buildings & Grounds	--\$6500.00
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The Total of equipment in both buildings, the buildings and grounds	--\$7051.22
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About 1890 was one of the years when Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Morehouse took their produce, to be exhibited, and their family and attended the Champaign County Fair. Mr. Morehouse exhibited his pigs and Mrs. Morehouse exhibited her chickens. Mrs. E. W. Morrison tells of these yearly trips to the fair--"We would go in the wagon, papa and mamma seated on the spring seat and us children would be seated on just a plain board across the wagon. At our feet were the pens of pigs and chickens which would be exhibited. Mamma always requested that we drive down Church street so that we might see the pretty homes etc., but as I think of it today I am sure the people living on the street saw more than did we. As soon as we would get to the Fair grounds, my father would buy a full roll of tickets for Chet and me to ride on the merry-go-round for the day and that way papa would know where we were. Then the next day he would do the same thing--the merry-go-round being a sort of 'baby sitter.' We would stay in Champaign at a rooming house or at the old hotel for the duration of the Fair. The next year we had a surry in which to make the trip to the Fair. Everyone would stand the shafts of his buggy up against the board fence which was around the Fair grounds. At that time the Fair was held on south Third Street. Old Mr. Rowe would hang up his iron hook and was pulling taffy to sell; he would say 'help yourself, for I don't have time to make the change,' and he would pull on. My mother also took great pride in selling her eggs. She would line the market basket with muslin and partition it off and then place her eggs in the basket. It all looked most attractive and thus the sales were easier."

Mr. Morehouse, a teacher in our schools for many years had learned how to handle children as was evidenced in his buying up the tickets for "all-day rides" on the merry-go round so he would know the whereabouts of his children. The parents would be busy with their exhibits and yet the children must be looked after properly.

September 9, 1890--S. J. Purnell allowed for taking census of District No. 2--\$1.50

October 1, 1890--T. H. Rea was instructed to procure an organ for school use--to buy or rent at his discretion if terms could be obtained satisfactorily. The Board decided on recommendation of Mr. Rusk and to correspond with State Course to adopt Orton's Comparative Zoology commencing with the present term.

November 4, 1890--T. J. Riley for rent of organ for seven months, from October 1, 1890 to May 1st, 1891--\$10.50 at the rate of \$1.50 per month.

January 4, 1892--Paid to A. Flanagan for 2 doz. Merry Sings \$6.53 (song book they were using at the time)

February 1, 1892--Paid to W. H. Holzer for stove for high school Dept.--\$12.

June 30, 1892--whole no. of volumes now in the library--140

One of the graduates of 1892 was George Wright with whom most pupils in the area for many years became well acquainted, as well as the teachers, for he was Assistant Superintendent of Schools to Charles H. Watts and also served for some years under County Superintendent of Schools, Ernest Harshbarger.

September 1892--Received tuition for Miss Frankenburger.

April 1893--Received tuition for Anna Pippin \$10.00 (this would be Anna Pippin Purnell--Mrs. Frank Purnell)

Charles Dale, long-time editor of the St. Joseph Record, was one of the members of the graduating class of 1893. Other members were Helen Tryon Bowditch, Elai McCormick, Frank Steduhar, Harry Bailey and Frank Deadman. Mrs. Bowditch is now living in Florida and Mr. Deadman is a doctor in Chicago. Mr. Dale recalls his first principal being Mr. Sizer whom he says was a good teacher.

The only living member of the Class of 1895 is Mrs. Fannie Davis Rayburn. Other graduates of this class were Myrta Morehouse Dale, who taught the primary grades at the Mahomet Grade School for several years, Minnie Rusk Ware, Claudine Dick Boyer, Bertha Ware Hamilton and Della Warner.

Sylva Morehouse Benson writes, "My older sister, Myrta Morehouse Dale, taught Primary in Mahomet. Although a grandmother to the day of her death she was 'Miss Myrta' to scores of Mahomet citizens."

Mrs. Rayburn recalls how her teacher, Miss Flanigan (1885-1886) would tell the pupils, 'now don't step on the board walk, for I don't want you to disturb anyone.'

Arguments in the community were more frequent in these early days. Ernest Scott, son of William and Josie Scott (nephew of T. S. Scott) was really from Hensley Township but was attending town school in Mahomet because of some dispute or argument in the country school district. Fannie Davis Rayburn's father took her out of the Harmony School and sent her to town school with her cousin, Ernest. Fannie rode behind Ernest on his horse. Fannie's older sister, Belle, was already attending the town school. Mrs. Rayburn told of always eating lunch with her grandparents who at that time were living in the house which is just across the street from the Methodist Church, later known to us as the Irle home. Mrs. Rayburn still has her penmanship Copy Book and also her books from her study of "Double entry" Bookkeeping which she studied in high school.

Below are the individual pictures of the six girls who graduated in the Class of 1895.



Myrta Morehouse Dale



Della Warner



Bertho Wore Hamilton



Claude Dick Boyer



Fannie Davis Rayburn



Minnie Rusk Ware

#### Graduates of the Class of 1895

Reproduced on the following page is a copy of the Commencement Program of 1895. The copy of the program was furnished by Mrs. Fannie Davis Rayburn. Mrs. Nelle Morehouse Morrison and Mrs. Bessie Rea Lange sang a duet at the graduating exercise. Mrs. Julia Rea (Bessie's mother) made the two girls the blue dresses to wear as they were seated in small rockers on the stage all during the Commencement exercises. They sang "Two Little Girls in Blue," a song which had just become popular at that time. They were accompanied on the guitar by Sylva Morehouse Benson. Mrs. Morrison still has the blue dress that she wore for this occasion.

# Mahomet Public Schools.

## Ninth Annual Commencement.

### Abbott's Hall.

Friday, May 10 1895 8:00 P. M.

8 COCKER STATE.  
MAHOMET ILLINOIS.  
1895

### Programme.

Piano Solo, ..... Mrs. Dr. Wall.  
Invocation, ..... Rev. T. D. Weems.  
Instrumental Duett, Misses Vera Scott and Bertha Carson.  
Oration, "Face The Lions," ..... Bertha Ware.  
Vocal Solo, ..... Miss Irene Ford.  
Oration, "A Noble Name," ..... Fannie Davis.  
Oration, "Building," ..... Claudine Dick.  
Instrumental Duett, .....  
..... Misses Clara Fisher and Ruth Cummings.  
Oration, "Shining Lights," ..... Dell Warner.  
Vocal Duett, Guitar Accompaniment, .....  
..... Misses Sylva and Nellie Morehouse and Bessie Rea.  
Oration, "Afterwards," ..... Myrta Morehouse.  
Vocal Solo, ..... Claud Stark.  
Oration and Valedictory, "Here Endeth the First Lesson,"  
..... Minnie Rusk.  
Presentation of Diplomas and Certificate, .....  
..... Principal, F. D. Bowditch.  
Instrumental Duett, .. Mrs. Dr. Wall and Mr. Chas. Dale.  
Benediction, ..... Rev. S. F. Gleason.

*Motto;*

"Esse quam videri."



*Colors;*

Pink and Nile Green



### GRADUATING CLASS.

BERTHA WARE,	20 Credits,	Diploma.
FANNIE DAVIS,	20 Credits,	Diploma.
CLAUDE DICK,	20 Credits,	Diploma.
MYRTA MOREHOUSE,	20 Credits,	Diploma.
MINNIE RUSK,	20 Credits,	Diploma.
DELL WARNER,	12 Credits,	Certificate.

BERTHA WARE, Salutatorian.  
MINNIE RUSK, Valedictorian.



Commencement Program of 1895 furnished by Fannie Davis (Rayburn)

We are printing a copy of the oration which was written and presented by Fannie Davis Rayburn May 10, 1895. Mrs. Rayburn can still recite the oration from memory. It was the custom in these early days that each person graduating must write and give from memory an oration.



## A NOBLE NAME

Fannie Davis, May 10, 1895

A noble name! What a glorious title that is. Who would not rather have it than any which kings can bestow.

Is it not worth all the gold and silver in the universe? Yes, and he who merits it possesses a jewel without price. You ask how can we obtain a noble name? What means will secure it for us by the unanimous consent of mankind? For it is the richest possession we have while living and the best legacy we leave behind when dead. It is won by our own endeavors; not inherited, not created by external advantages, by wealth, talents or station. It is in all cases the fruit of personal exertions, the reward of good principles manifested in a life of virtuous and honorable actions.

Hence the attainment of a good name, however humble the station, is within the reach of all.

If the records of the world were canvassed, it would be found that our greatest men, those who have been the first in searching out and bringing to light the mysteries of nature, those whose opinions have greatest weight, and whose friendship is most highly valued, are those whose youth was spent amid scenes of poverty and privation and whose life has been deprived of all those things which are considered indispensable in acquiring an education.

But self denial and toil strengthen the mind and establish an earnest desire to be somebody whose name can be handed down as the achiever of good and noble deeds. For by their works ye shall know them.

On the other hand, when wealth provides every want, there is a proneness to indolence and inactivity and few will show to the world the hidden genius they, perhaps, possess for the lack of some stimulus to call it forth.

Observation shows that the eloquent orators, the distinguished statesmen and the gifted writers have risen from the laboring classes. Let us look at Abraham Lincoln working as a hired laborer in the early part of his life, having no time to study except when the day's work was ended. See him reading by the firelight such books as he could borrow, for they were too poor to afford a candle in that hut which he called home. But advancing in knowledge and making use of every opportunity to learn, he became at the age of twenty three years a candidate for the legislature, and afterwards occupied the highest position in our country.

He died a martyr to the right and love reveres in letters bright  
Upon the highest shaft of fame none grander there than Lincoln's  
name.

The world and history are full of examples like Lincoln, who, without the advantages of fortune, or the influence of a distinguished family title, have, by their strength of character, risen to the highest pinnacle of earthly fame and honor, and made for themselves a noble name.

Life is not to be measured alone by length of days, but by deeds. Some men live out their three score years and ten but yet have little to show that they have lived, while others with a few years to their credit, exert an abiding influence in the community in which they reside and have made life more sunny and brighter because of their short lives.

So we see a noble name is the cornerstone of individual greatness. Without it, gold has no value, station no dignity, beauty no charms, age no reverence. Man, immortal, live for something! Do good and leave behind you a monument of virtue that the storms of time can never destroy! No, your name, your deeds will be as legible on those you leave behind as stars on the brow of evening.

Below is the poem which was written by Mrs. Fannie Davis Rayburn for the "Retro" published in 1925--thirty years after her graduation from the Mahomet High School.

DEDICATED TO THE CLASS OF 1895

--Mrs. Len Rayburn '95

Six happy maidens one hot night in May,  
Were seated on the stage in Abbott's Hall, made gay,  
With pink and green our colors, with locust bloom entwined,  
Each to render her oration as required in "ye olden time,"  
Esse quam Videre, our motto so unique,  
Hung just above the platform from which we were to speak.  
Three girls were dressed in colors, three were in white  
'Tis needless to say our program was carried out just right  
When our diplomas were presented and congratulations o'er  
We knew the class of '95 could have high school days no more,  
Thirty years have come and gone,  
One has passed to the "Great Beyond"  
The rest are scattered far and near,  
But their Alma Mater, they still hold dear.

Mr. Len Rayburn attended the schools in Mahomet, his parents living then on what was later known as the Philip Mohr farm just south of town. As customarily done, he had to stop school in the fall of the year to help with chores, the shucking of the corn and other farm work which prevented his graduating then from high school the following spring.

Miss Zaye Williamson, a graduate in the early 90's, taught in the Mahomet and Champaign schools for many years.

April 1895--the Board ordered the clerk to instruct the Principal of the school not to allow any pupil to graduate unless they pass the required examination.

July 27, 1896--Donnahue and Hennesy, Chicago--Blackboard and moulding--\$46.30. Price on blackboard--14 1/2 cents if 3 ft. wide and 15 cents if 3 1/2 ft. wide. (Up to this time they had painted the plastering of the walls to make their blackboards.)

Entries taken from the Mahomet School Record 1897 - 1935:

April 17, 1897--voted to purchase Cherry Lot, No. 23 from the heirs.  
(Mr. E. W. Morrison says the Cherry Lot was a part of what is now our grade school lot.)

May 1897--retain C. A. Pricer, Principal, but salary of \$65 versus \$70 and H. J. Morehouse in Grammar Department at \$40 but both rejected so re-hired at same salary.

"Members of the graduating class of 1897 were Lillie Todd Thomas, Alice Johnston, Maude Pinkston North and Clara Fisher," according to Mrs. Thomas, who also related, "The Literary Society met every Friday night. They put on programs at Abbott's Hall. They put on musical numbers and gave readings and had debates and also had spelling bees. At one of the spelling bees, Frank Thomas and Claudine Dick Boyer were the last ones up. We used to play what we called 'Town Ball' which was not baseball. All the boys and girls played 'Town Ball' and they had a pitcher and catcher and did bat the balls but it was more simple than baseball. We also played 'handy over'--over the Primary Building. There was a rail fence on the east side of the grade school grounds and the girls had a play house down by the rail fence."

July--No. of volumes in library--180

August--order granted to George Sackriter for 4530 hand-picked brick at \$8.50 per M. delivered--\$38.50 to build walk from schoolhouse to Main street. G. Tanner \$18.00 for labor building walk and water closets. Jonas Lester \$9.35 for 28 loads of sand and gravel. \$33.20 for lumber and nails for walk and water closet.

December 1897--stove, Owensboro, Kentucky,--\$9.20

February 1898--purchased lot of Cherry heirs for \$75. with abstract. W. P. Dick voted against the purchase because it was too high but F. E. Bryan and B. D. Abbott voted for.

April 16, 1898--27 votes cast and all for D. W. Shively as new Board member

Interesting facts picked up from the books that listed the teachers of the country for certain years.

1897-98--Eight months of school for all schools except six months for Oak Grove and Salem and nine months for Wright School.

Reports that were made to the County Superintendent's office by each teacher of the respective schools--

Enrollment:	Bellinger or Harmony--18
	Martin --23
	Dale or Cherry Grove-- 9
	Union --30
	Wright --28
	Hannah --29
	Walker --22
	Oak Grove --44
	Koogler --33
	Whitehall --33
	North --27
	Pioneer --24
	Excelsior --13

The report made was quite extensive but a report in full will only be given for the one school--Harmony or Bellinger--:

Average attendance--16

Library--"G"

No. volumes--50

How obtained--socials (Some of the schools reported the library was obtained by entertainments, others by subscriptions, some were purchased by the pupils but the majority were by socials)

No. pupils read--12

No. volumes--27

No. pages--2807

From County Library--"r" (but it was not determined what this meant)

No. volumes--0 (for the same period, Martin School reported 24)

Lincoln--0

For Central--2

Music--"r" (again it is not known what this means)

Drawing--"G"

Civ. Gov't.--"r"

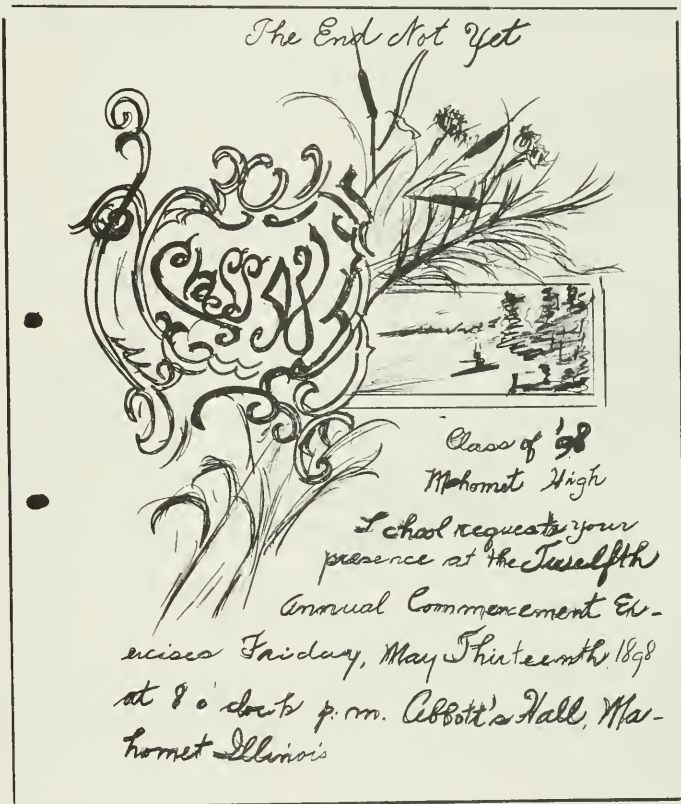
M. and M.--"G" (M. and M. stands for Manners and Morals)

It could be that "r" stood for required. It is believed by the author that the students were required to read so many pages on "Lincoln" just as other years they were required to read on "Cuba" or "Amer. N.'s & Sto. of Eng." This particular year there was no report on Salem nor the enrollment at the Town of Mahomet. The following year the report was practically the same for the country schools, the biggest difference being in Martin which reported an enrollment of 14 versus 23 as reported the preceding year and in the Dale School which had an enrollment of only 9 the preceding year and is showing an enrollment of 25 this year; Union also came up from 30 last year to 38 this year. The Town of Mahomet shows an enrollment of 165 with 75 pupils reading 56 volumes for a total of 12,350 pages and there were 41 for Central Exam. In 1899-1900, they reported on reading, "Cuba."

A letter from Gertrude Tanner (Mrs. S. W. Day) now living in Alexandria, Louisiana reads, "As you know, I lived in Mahomet twenty-three years, when I was married in 1904. I graduated from the High School May 13, 1898. There were only two in the class--Bertha Carson Herriott and I. C. A. Pricer was Principal. Exercises were held in "Abbott's Hall" where I had roller skated many times. The day was very exciting. My dress was white organdy with yards and yards of ruffles trimmed in purple velvet ribbon, made by Mrs. Arch Thompson and I wore my first pair of slippers and to be sure the dress almost covered them--no knees exposed. Ha!

"Sylvia Morehouse Benson and I were seat mates in grammar school and her father, H. J. Morehouse was the teacher. I have a blue plush autograph album with many teachers' and students' writing in it--Carrie Bodine (teacher in 1894), H. J. Morehouse (teacher in 1894), F. D. Bowditch (Principal in 1895), Lillie Todd, Maud Pinkston, Allie Johnston, Fan Wiles, Bertha Ware, Claude Dick and on and on. I have my Appleton's First Reader, also Horney's Elementary Grammar (date 1890). It is a pleasure to think of the happy school days. I always think of Mahomet as home although I have been in Louisiana since 1904."

Mrs. Evesta Gertrude Tanner Day sent to us her High School Invitation which was most interesting. The backing of the invitation was of parchment with a "peekhole" so that you could read through to "Class of '98" and tied with a bright red heavy corded ribbon. The invitation included the program that would be given and the graduates' names--just the two who were previously mentioned. Much of the printing was in embossed gold lettering. Also enclosed was the graduate's name card which was a penwritten signature on a white card--almost as heavy as



cardboard. The invitation had faded with age and because so much of it was in the gold printing, it was impossible to photograph, but it has been reproduced, as well as could be done. Notice that it is the "Thirteenth" Commencement and perhaps this was one of the earliest invitations.

Mrs. Benson writes, "Evesta Gertrude Tanner Day of the Class of 1898 and Clara Fisher of the Class of 1897 both went on to College."



# PROGRAM

Instrumental Solo ..... Miss Ethel Rea  
 Invocation ..... Rev. M. A. Hewes  
 Instrumental Solo ..... Miss Claudine Dick  
 Oration ..... "The Use of Books"

## GERTRUDE TANNER

Vocal Solo ..... Miss Sylvia Morehouse  
 Class History ..... Miss Lillie Todd  
 Instrumental Solo ..... Mrs. E. H. McCoolle  
 Recitation ..... Miss L. McDaniels  
 Quartette ..... Selected  
     Allie Johnston,              Bessie Starling,  
     F. L. Maxey,                C. A. Pricer  
 Oration ..... "Strive for a Purpose"  
                                  BERTHA CARSON

Class Prophecy ..... Vera C. Scott  
 Instrumental Solo..... Miss Lottie McKee  
 Address and Presentation of Diplomas.Mr. C.A. Pricer  
 Benediction ..... Rev. G. L. Talbot

# GRADUATES

Bertha Carson,  
 Gertrude Tanner.

April 1899--W. P. Dick ordered to collect \$1.00 from George Parker for an old stove for which he had never paid.

Mrs. Sylva Morehouse Benson, an early pupil and an octogenarian who is presently living in California, writes, "I graduated with the Class of 1899. In the summer of '87 I was taken to the 'new primary' just being completed and I saw the men installing the desks. (In an earlier chapter a comment was made on the inability to obtain any information on just when the primary school was built so the author was pleased to receive Mrs. Benson's letter with this information, even though it was after the first chapters had been completed. However, later, Mr. E. W. Morrison stated that Mrs. Sackriter said that the primary school was built in 1872 and she had attended there. As with any historical items, it is difficult to get all facts clear. Was the school built in 1872 or 1887? Could it be that the school was built in 1872 and that benches were used until 1887 when there was the installation of the new desks?) On my first day of school, I was frightened to see the town boys hazing the Deadman boy by 'riding him on a rail.' (Hazing the country boys was a common practice.)



(The Deadmans lived on what was later known as the French farm.) My first teacher was Mrs. Barber who lived with Mr. and Mrs. Starling, the postmaster. There was a chart with words on it--'cat,' 'rat,' 'can,' etc. Our 'number work' was colored beads strung on wires. For contrast in teaching methods--the first word my daughter learned was the word 'picture,' (Mrs. Nelle Morehouse Morrison says the first word her son, Robert, learned was grandmother.) My other teachers down through the years came in the following order:--Dora Cochran, Mae Slocum, Ida Purcell, Nellie Cochran, H. J. Morehouse and C. A. Pricer.

"First Intermediate in the brick building introduced us to Geography. In Opening Exercises, our teacher read from the Odyssey and Cortez in Old Mexico. We nearly froze in the Second Intermediate Room. My father (H. J. Morehouse) taught the 'grammar room' and I really had to dig.

"Those final exams with all of those teachers like a court room scared me to death. The big boys from the country schools were older and more mature and sure were death on 'math.' We thought they were brainwashed.

"But things otherwise picked up. We had part songs and we played hard--rope skipping, jumping, baseball (where I played first base) and in blackman, the boys were good at dodging and could get us through in a hurry. The boys would shovel the snow to the middle of the ice and we skated on both sides of it. I have skated all day Saturday and gone back and skated in the moonlight with big bonfires along the bank. They would let me be near the end when playing 'whip crack' and I would sail through the air 'with the greatest of ease' over the snow bank--an astronaut, and I didn't even know it.

"There were eight in our graduating class but Will Hayward was the only one brave enough to go through with it. He knew he had to have a diploma to enter Normal. Fred Carson, Paul Scott and Ernest Davis absolutely refused to give the required oration. However, those four boys pulled a 'surprise' on us and came out on the stage in black faces, the night of the entertainment to earn money to pay for the commencement expenses, and sang in 'Barbershop Harmony.' In these early days the girl graduates sprinkled diamond dust on their hair.

"We were happy, young, and in love. There were picnics, botany class flower hunts, boat rides etc. We were invited into the larger country homes for square dances; the biggest one was when we dedicated Uncle 'Jake' Bellinger's hay barn. We danced with the Mt. Vernon crowd, the Rising crowd and the Seymour crowd who were wonderful to dance with but we never thought of going to school together. (Our school district unit now includes these surrounding areas.)

"There were bobsled rides when we would sing to the jingle of sleigh bells. Sometimes we took oysters out to the country homes. We took flash-light pictures. One night, on one of our sleigh rides, feeling very romantic, Will Boyer asked your Aunt (Louise Rayburn Taylor)--'Lou, how big does the moon look to you?' She replied, 'Oh! about as big as a washtub.'

"When the boys sang, they used black cork and did a good job getting their faces black. The Speaker's subject at Commencement was 'Wild Oats.' As President of the School Board, T. H. Rea (Capt.) when presenting the diplomas said, 'You have did well.' "



Bill Hayward

Chet Morehouse

John Summers

Frank Rayburn

July 1899--Number of graded schools--2 (presume grade school and high school); number of rooms in graded schools--5; number of brick schools--1; number of frame schools--4. We accept the offer of L. Hull for the purchase of a Webster dictionary for \$8.25, leather bound.

So ends the information which has been collected on The Civil War Days and up to the turn of the century on the Mahomet Schools. However, it is interesting to compare Mahomet Schools with the surrounding community so a few paragraphs on schools in Champaign County for this same period are being added.

According to the Centennial Issue of the Champaign-Urbana Courier which was published July 3, 1960, a frame school was built in Champaign in 1860 which was destroyed by fire in 1870. The School District was moved east of the Illinois Central Railroad. In 1868, the second building on our present site of the Champaign High School was erected at a cost of \$80,000. In 1869, there were two schools in the City of Champaign--the Public School and the District School. The District School was on West Springfield.

A picture of the Blackberry District School located in west Champaign, as pictured in the Historical Calendar, looks much like the typical box-type country school and probably is the same one to which the Courier refers. It also pictures a three-story brick building, plus the basement, as being the first west side high school in Champaign. In 1865, The Industrial College passed the house by a vote of 45 to 34. The Illinois Industrial University (now the University of Illinois) was opened in 1868

with 77 students, 13 professors and 4 assistants. There was a young ladies Seminary of Champaign opened in 1869 under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church. This year it was related that Champaign's second school employed ten teachers.

Quoting from N. Belting's book on our schools in the 1860's--"In spite of the existence of three or four private schools, and of several public schools in the two towns, the citizens of Champaign city held a meeting at the Congregational Church, Monday, June 18, 1860, to discuss the establishment of a seminary. That night, \$5,540 was subscribed and work soon afterwards was begun on a building. On Tuesday, August 6, 1861, the cornerstone of the Urbana and Champaign Institute, to be placed on the dividing line of the two cities, was laid with an appropriate ceremony. The war put an end to the project for a time. It was this building when completed which became the home of the Illinois Industrial University in 1867.

"One of the leading interests of the towns in the sixties was education. Public schools established as a result of the Free School Act took over the job of the private academies and herded the youngsters of the towns into their rooms. Enrollment in Champaign schools in 1866 was 500, with an average daily attendance of 237. Three years later there were 645 youngsters enrolled and in 1870 there were 850 children of school age. Three or four private schools were conducted in each of the towns in addition to the crowded public schools. Mr. Scovill had such a large attendance in his school east of the Depot that he was forced to have half of his pupils in the morning and the other half in the afternoon. Another private school in 1869 had an enrollment of 30, and a day school was conducted by Mr. Blosschen under the auspices of the German Evangelical church.

"There were two schools for girls--the Champaign Female Seminary and the Young Ladies' Seminary. Formerly held in the old Presbyterian church which the trustees had bought for \$4000, when the fall term commenced in September 1870 under the principalship of Miss S. Bushee of Mt. Holyoke, sixty pupils were enrolled. The Young Ladies' Seminary was under the supervision of Mrs. Nott and regularly gave musical and 'literare soirees' for the public."

In the following paragraphs are presented not only the early history of our University from 1868, the year of its beginning, to the turn of the Century, but facts on its development and its many "firsts" on up to the present year of 1962, even though briefly. At no other time are facts given on the University nor is an attempt to bring the history of the Mahomet Schools up to date (1962) with the exception of brief statements on their very recent building program.

In the latest edition put out by Charles Flynn's Office, Director of Public Relations, University of Illinois, Reference Folder 1962, these facts appeared:

"The University grew out of a demand of the people that higher education be available to more than a favored few. In 1862, Abraham Lincoln

signed the "Land Grant College Act" providing for establishment of such colleges.

"Illinois opened March 2, 1868, with three faculty members and fifty students in a second-hand building. To the original campus at Urbana-Champaign was added in 1896 the first of the Chicago Professional Units in the health sciences. Undergraduate Divisions were established in 1946 in Chicago and Galesburg; that at Galesburg closing in 1949.

In education, Illinois showed leadership starting with the very first year of operation, 1868, when it offered architectural instruction which four years later allowed presentation of a diploma to America's first architectural graduate.

1869--Illinois introduced to America the idea of a laboratory for students. In this pioneering botany laboratory under Prof. T. J. Burrill students saw and found out for themselves, instead of depending on textbook and lecture alone.

1870--this idea was applied in another field when the University established the country's first shop for engineering education--not to train mechanics, but to let engineering students learn by doing.

1877--Prof. Burrill introduced the world's first general bacteriology course.

1890--saw at Illinois the world's first course for architectural engineers.

1897--the Nation's first state-supported School of Music.

1907--came the first legislative grant specifically for graduate study made by any state.

1902--came the first college-level courses in business English.

1912--first professor of city planning, C. M. Robinson.

1919--first four-year athletic coaching courses.

1901--when Thomas Arkle Clark was named dean of men he was the world's first to bear this title.

1948--Illinois pioneered another great area by establishing the first comprehensive college program for the severely disabled.

1917--Illinois had the first indoor intercollegiate relay carnival.

1902--R. C. Matthews is the country's first collegiate cheer leader.

1910--One of the three great campus-wide observances which originated at Illinois was the Homecoming.

1920--The second of the three great campus-wide observances which originated at Illinois was the collegiate Dad's Day.

1921--The third of the three great campus-wide observances which originated at Illinois was the collegiate Mother's Day.

1906--McKinley Presbyterian Church was established expressly for college students.

1913--Wesley Foundation was established by the Methodist Church--the first religious foundation to be established on any campus.

1876--the oldest soil experiment plots in America and second oldest in the world and these have been in continuous cultivation.

1881--Prof. Burrill gave the world first evidence that bacteria cause disease.

1903--the University established the nation's first Engineering Experiment Station.

1908--the University opened another area by making Miss Nellie E. Goldthwaite the country's first full-time research worker in home economics.

1913--Prof. Jakob Kunz made the first modern sensitive photoelectric cell.  
1922--Prof. J. T. Tykociner devised and first demonstrated modern sound-on-film motion pictures.  
1924--world's first house specially for home heating research was built at the campus.  
1940--Prof. D. W. Kerst invented the betatron--an "atom-smasher" for physics research, and high-energy x-ray source for medicine and industry.  
1949--first betatron entirely for medical use was installed on the University's medical campus.  
1954--a group led by Dr. Warren H. Cole, surgery department head in the College of Medicine, demonstrated that cancer cells sometimes slough off from a tumor into the bloodstream as the tumor is being removed during surgery and lodge elsewhere in the body and reproduce tumors. Once their research confirmed this fully, they developed a now widely-used technique for preventing such spread."

Today's enrollment for the University of Illinois is 33,828. The total administrative, academic and non-academic staff is 10,814--this was for the second semester 1961-1962 which was the highest enrollment there had ever been.

An article in the Champaign-Urbana News Gazette July 1962 reads, "The University of Illinois payroll for May 1962 was \$4,096,004, for all divisions, according to a report issued Thursday by Michael J. Howlett, state auditor of public accounts, Springfield. This payroll was for 9,188 employees. During April, the University of Illinois payroll was \$4,162,844 for 9,380 employees. In May 1961, there were 9,363 employees, for a payroll of \$3,822,410.

"Howlett reported the state's payroll for 64,602 employees in May was \$25,580,984, an increase of \$42,631 or .17 per cent from April 1962. Payrolls for all agencies except educational institutions were \$18,412,029, an increase of \$109,493 or .59 per cent.

"The number of employees in May 1962 was 2,207 more than in May 1961. Of the increases, 1,110 were in educational institutions, 1,095 for all other state agencies. Total payroll costs for all state agencies increased \$1,992,588 or 7.79 per cent from May 1961 to May 1962.



## CHAPTER XIX

### MAHOMET SCHOOLS FOR THE FIRST HALF OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY--1900--1950

Quoting from Cunningham's Historical Encyclopedia published in 1905-- "The population of Champaign County in 1900 was 47,622. Urbana has a population of 5,708 and is the County seat and it is connected to Champaign by electric railway. Other towns are Tolono with a population of 1000 and Rantoul with a population of 1200. There is the University in both towns, manufacturers of carriages and machines, several schools, Burnham hospital, Garwood Old Ladies Home, handsome park in the residential area covering ten acres etc. Mahomet has progressed from a wilderness to a high place in the communities of Illinois. Mahomet--a thinly settled frontier settlement where the wild game roamed at pleasure and where the wild Indian came as a foe to white man; where the boundless prairies all around echoed no friendly voice and when no human habitation gave promise of a change from barbarism to civilization."

"Bill" Johnston verifies this statement when he relates, "About 1900, Mahomet was heavily wooded. A team hitched to a sled broke loose and got lost in the woods and was never found until the next spring and then only the carcasses for the team had starved to death when the sled had got caught on the timbers and they could not break loose. This happened in the timbers down on the Lester place."

Continuing with information from the Historical Encyclopedia--"Men in the great work of meeting these exigencies: B. F. Harris, Fielding Scott, Hezekiah Phillippe, John Rea, George Boyer, William Stearns, John Carter, William Herriott, James Ware, Wiley Davis, John R. Rayburn, Joshua Smith, John Bryant, the Davidsons, Thomas A. and James W., J. V. Pittman, James C. Kilgore, John W. Park, J. D. Webb, J. Q. Thomas and Robert Davis...The schools of the village and town of which there are seven do the town great honor."

Some few articles from the Record of the Board for Mahomet Township prove interesting so quotations are given, from time to time--

April 1900--Considering the building of a new school.

Audie Foster Ring writes: "At first, one man taught all of the high school subjects just as one teacher would teach all pupils in the eighth grade or the seventh grade. There was not an individual teacher for the different subjects. The course in the three-year high school was not optional but was made out by a county committee which was probably appointed by the County Superintendent, George R. Shawhan. In the high school, there were two different classes, the first and second year work would be given one year and then the next year they would alternate with the first and third year work. At the alternate years, they would do only two of the programs. My second year at Mahomet I did practically nothing for it was a repeat of what I had had at Fisher from where I transferred, and Mr. Pricer wasn't anxious to make a special class for me so I waited for the



class of 1900-01 which was composed of Vesta Rayburn, Hannah Huber, Lou Herriott Davis and Elbert Morrison. The main entertainment we had was stirring up a "skip to ma loo" party, whenever possible, or if snow happened to start falling while at school, a sled party was soon in preparation. The Davis boys, Ernest and Jay, usually furnished the team and sled and somehow we wormed ourselves into the old Jake Bellinger's barn, whether they were glad to have us, I don't know, but I never knew of their turning us down. The river back of the schoolhouse froze then too and furnished good ice skating. Mr. Pricer chaperoned the skating parties at night. Bustles were very fashionable about that time, but I never wore one for fear I couldn't anchor it so as to be sure of not losing it. One of the girls did lose hers once--just a roll of rags tied around her with a string. Ethel Webb wore the neatest and best looking ones!"

It was about this time that we find in the Book of Teachers at the Champaign County Court House information on school yards such as--

1900-1901--report on trees in school yards--number of trees planted and number of trees will plant.

Mr. Elbert Morrison attended the Mahomet schools only during his senior year 1900-1901 when his father, C. R. Morrison, was the Methodist minister of the community. Elbert's comment was that he enjoyed the morning exercises when the pupils in the high school room would go across the hall into the room of the seventh and eighth graders and have a "Sing" and at the same time--each morning--there would be the reading of a scripture and the giving of a prayer. Elbert's favorite song was "Oh the Patter of the Rain," which today he can sing from memory, word for word. His Commencement oration was "The Workshop of the Brain" part of which he can still recite--"The Nineteenth Century has come and gone. It's a record of the past." The persons who signed Mr. Morrison's diploma were H. A. Shively, W. H. Holzer and the Principal, H. A. Davis. The diploma was quite large in size which was in contrast to our present day diplomas.

1901-1902--report on whether enough shade in the school yards and still reporting on tree plantings. Also an article that the Districts were given their present numbers by Supt. Shawhan. Districts are numbered consecutively by the entire county and before they had been numbered consecutively by townships. At this time there is a kindergarten in the Mahomet town grades.

Mrs. Nelle Morehouse Morrison, a graduate of the Class of 1902, remembers an incident which happened during her first year at the Old Primary Building when she was in the first grade. The teacher, Mrs. Wood, had told the children they must not go skating on the pond which was in the schoolyard, northwest of the present building. The children did not have their skates on but were just skating across the pond in their regular street shoes when discovered by the teacher. All the pupils but one girl had gone skating and this girl had watched them for a while and then had gone into the schoolhouse to tattle to the teacher which resulted in the pupils all being called in and spanked. The spanking was with a walnut

ruler across the open palm of the hand. Mrs. Morrison tells of how her heart was broken for this was the only whipping she had ever had in her lifetime, either at home or at school.

Mrs. Morrison said the Primary Building was for "Primary A," "B," and "C." Primary "C" seemed to be for the especially slow pupils, then Primary "B" was comparable to first grade and Primary "A" was comparable to the second grade. One could not enter school until six years of age. The Primary building was known as Room One.

Mrs. Morrison vividly recalls her Central Exam at which time the County Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Shawhan, made a visit to each school and listened to the pupils read orally. Each child had been trained to stand properly, hold his book in the proper hand (which she thought was the left hand) and then read. They were required to read something rather difficult such as "The Preamble to the Constitution," "The Declaration of Independence" or perhaps "Thanitopsis." Mrs. Morrison said she was especially anxious to do well for she did not want to bring disgrace to her father, H. J. Morehouse, who was the teacher of her room that year, but that Mr. Shawhan looked at them so exacting that their knees knocked together and they shook all over. The pupils had to make an average of 75 at the Central Exam before they were permitted to go into Urbana to take the Final Examination. Of course, all pupils did not make the required average of "75."

Mrs. Morrison remembers the year she did make the required average and the pupils who went into Urbana got on the 10:28 "Big Four" train and then they returned in the afternoon on the 4:00 o'clock train. It was really quite an experience going into Urbana and taking the examination with all the other pupils who were strangers. Mrs. Morrison's father warned her that it would be quite an experience and that he would be proud of her, and she would be doing quite well if she ranked among the first one hundred.

When a pupil in the lower grades they all thought it would really be something to just be permitted to go upstairs where the seventh and eighth grade pupils met in the room on the west side of the hall and the high school pupils met on the east side of the hall. The high school room was referred to as the "Fifth Room."

Mrs. Morrison recalls their high school days when their Principal, H. A. Davis, taught all subjects which included physics, solid geometry, algebra, English, civics, ancient history, modern history, and Latin. All the teaching was done in the one room but there were only three in her graduating class--Melissa Stidham, Lloyd Sackriter and herself.

Mrs. Morrison remembers the experiments which were set up showing the reaction of positive and negative electrons and other experiments. The laboratory was not elaborate, in this one room, but they did have a "lab." Mrs. Morrison's most difficult subject for her was solid geometry, and her comment was, "I was nearly sunk in that." There were only twenty students in the entire high school at this time. Mrs. Morrison, like others in that day, had to give her oration on the night of her Commencement. The

title of her oration was, "The Little Red Schoolhouse." Mrs. Morrison's high school diploma was signed by Dr. S. W. Shurtz, George Sackriter and H. A. Davis, Principal.

After your high school graduation, you were not permitted to enter the University without taking a special admittance examination for the Mahomet High School was not accredited until after 1921 when they built the new building and had four years of high school, rather than three.

To the right is Nelle Morehouse Morrison's picture taken at the time of her graduation. Below is the picture of all the students in the high school at this time.

Nellie Morehouse



High School -- Mahomet -- Spring 1902

First row, left to right -- Clyde Davis, Lydia Huber, Carl Colwell, Lissa Stidham, Bert Lester, Ashur Herriatt

Second row -- Prof. H.A. Davis, Sadie Phillippe, Paul Morrison, Tot Carson, Lloyde Sackriter, Lova Colwell, Roscoe Morse

Top row -- Ethel Anderson, Bessie Rea, Tude Carson, Ethel Webb, Nellie Morehouse, Grace Lindsey, Edith Shively, Olive Murphy

(The graduating class of that year are in the center of each row -- N. Morehouse, L. Sackriter, and L. Stidham.)

In the School Board's Records--April 1903--J. O. Rayburn received 50 votes; Mattie Shively received 50 votes. George Sackriter prepared two broom straws to draw by lot. J. O. Rayburn was declared elected (the long straw). (This great decision was made, and the tie was broken by means of the drawing of broom straws. Yet in our recent election held in the Town of Mahomet on bonds for our sewage disposal there was a close contest but there was not a tie, yet some of the persons wanted to contest the vote and have it done all over again.)

Ella Herriott Primmer writes that Bert Lester had graduated in 1903 but that there were no graduates in 1904 as the school had been changed to a four-year course.

May 1903--considering the building of a new school

April 1904--two-story school building declared unsafe. Wrote to State Superintendent, Alfred Bayless, to close the school. Vote for or against the issuing of bonds in the amount of \$5800 for a new school. The bonds would be over an 11-year period (to 1915).

Mrs. Audie Foster Ring writes, "The old Mahomet school building was torn down in the early summer of 1904. Perry Hellyer was hired as Principal for that school term, with Roll Johnson as the teacher for the seventh and eighth; Audie Foster, fifth and sixth; Gertrude Rowe, third and fourth; and Mrs. Olive Wright, first and second. We began teaching in empty buildings and in Abbott's Hall until January 1, 1905, when the new building was completed, and then it burned in 1906, and a new one was built almost identical to the old one. Some of my pupils in the fifth and sixth grades were Mary and Fern Hoit, Pearl Davis, Harrison Davis, Vira Bryan, Helen Purnell, Flossie Purnell, Josie Holzer, Willis Black, Floyd Jones, Etta White Brumfield, George Wiggins, Velma Lindsey Hood, Faye Lindsey, Goldie Miller Conkwright, Jessie Jackson Wills, Ruth Pricer Warren, Stanley Spencer, etc. The School Board members were C. B. Hoit, C. L. Lindsey and Justin Rayburn."

Ella Herriott Primmer, a member of the graduating class of 1905, writes, "After one year of high school in the country I went to Mahomet High School. I had taken the seventh and eighth grades twice so knew the old Horny's grammar and other studies verbatim. In those days, very few students studied after the eighth grade. I went to the old Brick (which was condemned) for two years, and then to the Odd Fellow's Building a month or two in the Fall of 1904 while the new high school was being finished. We moved into the new high school--the new brick--in January 1905. For the first time, we had two teachers for the high school."

Quoting "Bill" Johnston, "In 1904 they built the brick school. George ("Pat") Murphy and I were working for Spurgeon. We left off part of the paneling and something else which was a part of the stairway. I said, 'Keep your mouth shut,' and then after the school burned they told Spurgeon what had happened. Neither Spurgeon nor the architect knew that anything had been left off until after the school burned and then they told him. The architect caused Spurgeon much trouble. He said we had put the lathe too close together and we had to tear off the lathe and rebuild and put them not so close."

Entry in November 1904 for the purchase of 213 desks at \$443.02.

Mrs. Lon Spurgeon, who now lives in Kankakee, writes, "I think a draftsman by the name of Stipes drew the plans and specifications for my husband, Lon Spurgeon, who built the school, purchased the Tanner Lumber yard, built the I. O. O. F. building and other buildings to make dear old Mahomet grand. On April 30, 1904, an election was held to vote on a new schoolhouse. There were 114 votes for and 11 against the building. Bids were sent in and on May 31, 1904 the lowest bid made was that of Mr. Spurgeon, \$9,360. He was to give the Board \$350 for any material he might use in the new building. On March 18, 1905, Mr. Spurgeon turned the building over and was paid for same. June 8, 1906, the Board met to open bids for a new building after the fire. This bid went to Charles Guinn of Chicago."

Quoting from Mr. Abbott's article published in our Sucker State under date of December 30, 1904--"The new house is a handsome substantial building, concrete foundation, deep and broad with granite trimmings and a slate roof, size 70 x 60, six rooms and same number of large cloak rooms, principal's room and spacious halls, all furnished in latest styles. As a whole it reflects great credit to the school board, Messrs. J. O. Rayburn, C. L. Lindsey and C. B. Hoit, also to the architects, and to the contractor, Lon Spurgeon, and while the old one lasted 40 years, we predict 80 years for this one. The cost of the building and furnishing the building throughout with up-to-date apparatus and decorations, with grading and tree planting and other outdoor improvements will be about \$13,000. We are proud of the house and proud of the bevy of rosy-cheeked children that are being educated within its walls and think nothing is too good for them."

Ella Herriott Primmer writes, "There were five in our class but Lydia Huber dropped out in the spring. We were left with four but in feeling that was the biggest class ever to finish. We held the graduation exercises in the Methodist Church. Each one wrote an essay which was memorized and delivered. This was hard for some who had never done a thing like that, but with me--I gloried in the act. Poor "Tot" Carson really suffered. Bess Rea and Grace Lindsey were the other two. Grace could walk right away from the others of us (but had to work in her Dad's restaurant); the rest of us did nothing but trail along. We received wonderful gifts. One of mine was a good watch which was stolen off of my desk when I was teaching there in the grade school later. The following spring the watch was found in the woods west of town but was broken.

In 1906, when Charles Watts became the County Superintendent, Mahomet had an enrollment of 352 pupils with 12 teachers and the value of its property was \$22,245. Newcomb Township had an enrollment of 258 with 7 teachers and a property value of \$9,978, according to Stewart's volume on early history.

Lura Abbott Harper, a member of the graduating class of 1906, writes, "I finished the eighth grade and first year high school at Martin and



then went to Mahomet High School which at that time was held in the upper floor of the Odd Fellows Building while the new building was being finished. Our graduation exercises were held in the Methodist Church. We wrote our own orations (as we called them), committed them to memory, and were we scared to death when we delivered them! The day our class graduated, the school building burned."

In the next few paragraphs I shall reiterate some of the interesting stories told by pupils and/or teachers around the turn of the century-- incidents which occurred, etc.

Myrta Morehouse Dale taught the primary grades at Mahomet for a period of four years, starting in the fall of 1896. When Maude Clapper Warner was her pupil she was taught to pronounce the word "dog" with a short "o" and the same was true with the word "hog"--to be pronounced with a short "o." Maude read the sentence: "The dog bit the hog on the log, (meaning "leg.")"

Class of 1903 or 1904 ?



First row, left to right -- Charlotte Hume, Maude Jones, Ona Clapper, Nelle Murphy, Mabel Crawford, Gladys Davis

Top row -- Principal H.A. Stewart, Nelle Purnell, Ernest Stout, Bess Rea, Verne Purnell, "Tot" Carson, Ella Herriott

Ona Clapper Hood writes, "Our teacher in the primary grade was Myrta Morehouse Dale. She was a lovely person and knew just how to



handle the youngsters. One little boy was always turning around in his seat so Myrta, in her nice way, just sat him on her lap, never letting on, and having been quite embarrassed, he really quit turning around. My classmates under our third and fourth grade teacher, Bertie Campbell, were Charlotte Hume, Daisy Smith, Una Lindsey and Eva Wright. Hattie Davis was one of our teachers and was a very nice person. She always laid her handkerchief on her desk just right so it stood up and I dreamed of the day when I could have a pretty handkerchief and lay it just so. We always stood beside our seats and repeated the Lord's Prayer every morning when in her room. When Della Porter was our teacher in the grammar room we knew we would be called to the board to put on an arithmetic problem and then we would have to prove it. One morning I was walking to school, cutting across the school yard from our home to the big willow tree. I was walking along with two other girls when one of the older boys, Roscoe Smith, and another boy dashed by us and knocked me down. Roscoe came back and helped pick me up and helped brush off my dress and then that noon they told me Roscoe was looking for me; he had brought to me a sack of red hots because he had knocked me down that morning."

Edith Shively Wegeng writes of one of the teachers, Mr. Howard A. Davis (brother-in-law of Mrs. Fred Jahr), "He was very good, but the next year I had a poor teacher and I almost forgot what I had learned the previous year so my folks sent me to Champaign for my junior and senior years."

Audie Foster Ring tells that the mode of punishment used by Mrs. Stewart was to seat the child in the knee-hole space under her desk and then repeat, "I'm a goose" over and over again.

Ombra Lindsey Foster comments, "I was eleven years of age when I had Zaye Williamson as a teacher (1902-03) and my son, "Dick" was also eleven when he had Zaye for his teacher. I squeaked out of the seventh and eighth grades for I could not get arithmetic. Mr. Pricer said, 'You've passed everything else so good, so if you'll come to my house once a week, all summer, and work on arithmetic, then I'll pass you.' I did go to his house all summer at his request and then I passed, but just.

"Bill" Hayward (later the Principal) as a student would make up rhymes. Maude Miller Lindsey had gone to school with her cousin, Edna Foster Shively, to visit. Maude was enough of a young lady that her dress had been lengthened, thus the poem of "Bill's":

'Maude Miller on a summer's day  
Visited the school, not far away  
She came to show her new dress and bonnet  
Her dress was too long, by gosh! Dog gone it! ' "

Another poem or rhyme of "Bill's" (with an assist of B. Frank Rayburn's) -- (and the poem was set to a tune of their own making)

Oh, Peter Davis and his wife were going to the Fair  
Oh, I will go to save your life  
And Oh how "Pete" did swear, swear, swear  
And Oh how "Pete" did swear."

Of course "Pete" (Jay) didn't swear but it was a rhyme for the moment.

Mrs. Nelle Purnell Buckles writes, "Mable Crawford Heath and I used to have so much fun and Mabel would get me to laughing and then she could have a poker face when Hellyer would see us and I would still be laughing. (This has been a trick over the centuries has it not?) One time there was a wreck on the "Big Four" and the boys played hooky to go see it. We girls wrote on Jess Pinkston's tablet and made out that it was a note from Mr. Stewart pertaining to his playing hooky. When Jess returned and found the note he punched me (for he sat right behind me) and asked, 'who written that?' so that was quite a 'by-word' with all of us 'kids' after that. During the school hours, two of us children would leave the room from the grade school room and two would leave from the high school room and then when the four of us got outside we would play some ball. Once "Nate" Wiles threw an ink bottle at Bert Johnston but it hit the door instead of Bert."

Russell C. Buckles says, "I remember one time that Nate Wiles whipped me for whispering and Minnie Church Smith had been whispering with me and she got off but I sure got it."

Ben Carson writes, "My recollection of the Old Mahomet schools takes me back to the days of "Cappy" Pricer and Archie Stewart (husband of Abbie Nebeker Stewart), as Principals, and then the outstanding Perry Henry Hellyer who was a very big person in my own personal life, after "Nate" Wiles, "Miss Vina" Cummings and "Miss Jenny" Johnston Keene had somehow or other got me through the grades and into the old Mahomet High School.

"My class at Mahomet High School graduated in May 1906 and in celebration of the event, the school building burned down in the morning of the evening of Commencement. There were only four graduates in the class--Lura Abbott, Ada Lindsey, Vern Scott Purnell and Ben Carson. Vern Purnell, after graduating from Mahomet High, continued at Champaign High School the next year and then went to Illinois where he played Freshman football. Vern got his appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point during the next year and was graduated from there about 1911. Incidentally, he made the Army Football Team and made his letter on this team for two or three years. "Peny" (Vern) was center on the Mahomet High School Football Team and Charlie Purnell (father of the author) was the rushing full-back. My gross weight was about 75 pounds at that time, but they let me play quarter-back because I owned a football (perhaps). The total enrollment of MHS was 26 (1905-1906). The football squad hardly had enough members to field a team of eleven and occasionally a bit of recruiting was done in the surrounding towns.

"One trip to Seymour was made on the flat-topped wagon on which G.P. ("Chicken") Miller used to haul his chicken coops to the market. Later

we graduated to the old 'hack' driven by 'Lip' Stuckey. During these trips a lot of musical talent was developed and the all-time favorite which 'Lip' always requested by saying, 'Boys, sing Good-bye to the Bluebell' was later added to with more difficult numbers such as Sweet Adeline, and I've Been Working on the Railroad. It wasn't much of a football team, but no doubt the foundation for the early development of the musical talent of the community was laid.

"I probably should mention that the athletic equipment of the football team in that period would hardly be considered sufficient for the present day 'Bull Dogs' who have made history for the old town, and the history gets clear over to Danville. A few of the boys sported white cotton flannel pants (home made) with a red stripe down the outside seam. One or two of the boys owned 'head harness' and Charley Pugh used one of his father's ('Mike's') old derby hats which he occasionally lost in 'scrimmage.' Them wuz the days!!!!!!

"A lot of water has flown under the old bridge across the Sangamon at the foot of Main Street since 1906. The fire on Commencement Day probably destroyed most of the records of the early years of MHS, and a lot of us, no doubt, have scholastically been lost souls. I am quite proud of the progress that has been made and am sure that Mahomet-Seymour is right up in the front ranks of our present day rural township high schools."

Of these four graduates, Ben does have a thriving drug store in the City of Danville; Vern (deceased) was a graduate of West Point, was a Major in the Army and is buried at Arlington Cemetery. The other two ladies are housewives.

It was during these days (about 1906) that B. Frank Rayburn, Ben Carson, and Stanley Spencer had a picture taking business and took pictures of the ball teams.

When Louise Purnell Jones was teaching at the Mahomet Grade School one of the pupils turned in a theme on the fire of the old grade school and his statement was, "William Lindsey, father-in-law of Billy Adams, was janitor and it was thought that he gathered up disinfectants and put them in the furnace and they exploded, causing the schoolhouse to burn on Graduation Night, but no one knows, for sure, what happened."

Because the schoolhouse burned in May of 1906 a new one had to be built which proved to be almost identical to the old one.

June 1906--The contract was let to the lowest responsible Bidder with bond for 30% of contract price. It was let to Charles Gwinn of Champaign for \$8,947 (eight thousand nine hundred and forty seven dollars) to be finished by September 15, 1906.

Mr. "Bill" Johnston tells, "Spurgeon did not build the new school. Gwynn was the new contractor. Spurgeon was low man in the first bid

and then they added on some other items and Spurgeon was not as smart as Gwynn in his re-bidding so Gwynn got the bid. However, Gwynn got it by figuring too low and so in the building he cut down on quality and blackboards could not be painted on the plaster because of the plastering being too thin, etc."

Merle Hayward Clapper writes, "In the fall of 1906 I started to school in Mahomet. I stayed at the home of Mrs. Anna Herriott and Ella. Ella was teaching at Cherry Grove school then. There I met Miss Viana McCown and Rosalee Stettbacher who were teaching in grade school and were also rooming with Mrs. Herriott. My folks moved into town in January 1907. Mr. R. Johnson was my teacher that year. I was taking eighth grade over because I thought I should or someone else thought I should. This was in September after the grade school had burned. School was held in Abbott's Hall and some other places such as the Lodge Halls, etc. I went to Abbott's Hall where we sat at long tables. Mr. H. A. Richter was Principal of the High School."

Elsie Black Bancroft writes, "Ethel Wright and I, the inseparables, (a brunette and a blond), were in the limelight on one occasion in Mr. Nathan Wiles' room (eighth grade). We conceived the idea of disappearing from classes and hid behind the old reed organ in the corner of the room from lunch time until recess. Some of the youngsters knew we were huddled back there in the corner and curious glances betrayed our hiding place. We were instructed by Mr. Wiles (who surely wanted to trounce us) to take our seats--which we did with a red face and apologetic air.

"It was an exciting experience when we had school in the Odd Fellow's Hall after our school building burned. Much inconvenience was experienced but we loved sitting around the long tables with the books strewn about. The five girls of the Class of 1908 with their school motto, 'Out of school life, into life's school' were a serious group as we faced the world. We had shared together joys, disappointments, triumphs, but grateful for the heritage from our patient instructors. I've always been so grateful for the capable and thorough teaching from the teachers in the Mahomet schools--spelling bees and emphasis on spelling which has helped me through the years to be a fairly good speller. And the lessons in oral reading proved a blessing. Knees shook sometimes and voice quaked but it was all worth the effort to overcome fear and timidity and later to be able to speak publicly. My grateful appreciation to some patient and exacting teachers."

Mrs. Ethel Wright Stookey writes, "There were five girls in our graduating Class of 1908--Elsie Black, Ruth Purnell, Wilma Yancey, Maude Jones and myself. In our senior year we had the first girls' basketball team with the members being Ruth and Flossie Purnell, Wilma Yancey, Ethel Wright and Edna Sloan."

Ella Herriott Primmer tells of some humorous incidents which occurred during her teaching days at the Mahomet grade school,--"I taught two years at Cherry Grove and then taught two years (1908-1909 and 1909-1910) in the third and fourth grades at Mahomet at which time Mr. C. B. Hoit,

Mr. Charles Lindsey and Mr. J. N. Black were the Directors. Then I was promoted to the primary room. At that time I was the highest paid teacher in the first six grades--\$68.10 a month. I taught in the primary room for three years and then George Primmer came along and that was the last of teaching in Mahomet.

"They were afraid I would not be able to keep order since I knew the pupils so I began by being unusually strict. The postmistress, Irene Ford, asked Ervin ('Pete') Lindsey how he liked his new teacher and his reply was, 'She's as cross as hell.' But I did not have to keep up the severeness and we got along fine.

"I had a little girl from a very poor family who came up to the desk one recess and said, 'Fay Smith says I have lice,' so I called 'Mr. Fay' up to the desk and made inquiry of what he had said and his response was, 'I did not say she had lice; I was just checking her head to see if it were true.' "



Mahomet Grade School Room-- 1911

Boy at bottom-- Jahn Phillippe, First row, left to right-- \_\_\_\_\_?, \_\_\_\_\_?, Edith Kimble, Jim Pricer, Sabra Lindsey, Eva Smith, \_\_\_\_\_?, \_\_\_\_\_?, Clarence Rayburn, Haward Hyatt  
 Second row-- \_\_\_\_\_?, Stewart Wykle, \_\_\_\_\_?, \_\_\_\_\_? Holly, \_\_\_\_\_? Purcell, \_\_\_\_\_?, Tinsey Lindsey, Ora Wright, \_\_\_\_\_?, Robert Sloan, Teacher-- Ella Primmer  
 Third row-- Fred Mahr, Janas Davis, \_\_\_\_\_?, Edna Hait, Gertrude Smith, Treva Reed, \_\_\_\_\_?, \_\_\_\_\_?, Frances Behrens, Bernice Smith, Janitor, Dad Heavins

An entry from the Board of Directors book on May 2, 1908 reads--  
 Board met today and selected Wm. C. Hayward as Principal for the coming year at \$100 per month.



Stewart's History, published in 1918, shows an enrollment of ninety in the schools of Mahomet in 1908, with fifty being in the high school where C. P. Bauman was the Principal. There were 350 enrolled in the township schools.

Amy Abbott Schurtiger, one of the graduates of 1911 writes, "There was only one teacher employed in the Mahomet High School until September 1, 1908, when W. C. Hayward was the new Principal and Miss Mathilda Voss was employed as an assistant. Miss Voss was there only one year and was replaced by Miss Jennie Pearce who was Mr. Hayward's assistant."

#### Entries from the Board of Directors' Book--

September 1, 1908--School Board met at the Home Bank. Unanimously decided to hire the sixth teacher for the high school room and to purchase \$150 worth of apparatus for the physics laboratory. New seats for high, room No. 1--11-5. Recitation benches ten feet long ordered to come at once. J. N. Black, Clerk.

June 1909--Board met to let job of painting. Three bids put in. Robert Wills, low--\$145.00--job let.

1909-1910--first time referred to eight and one-half months' of school instead of eight.

Stewart's History records there was a standardization of rural and graded schools in 1909 and that there was to be a visitation made by someone from the Department of Public Instruction; requirements were to be met in the physical equipment, course of study and teaching. In 1909, the legislature passed an act requiring districts which did not maintain a high school to pay tuition of their eighth grade graduates in some four-year high school (tuition was to be paid by the district if the parents were unable to pay.)

According to the Champaign News Gazette, there were ten graded schools in Champaign in 1910.

From an early Retro (Mahomet's School Annual) we read--"Feeling that a high school of the size of ours should not be without representative organizations of those interested in literary activities, and in the improvement to be gained from association with persons with like ideals, in the fall of 1910, the instructors and students brought about the organization of the Mahomet High School Literary Societies. So, in December, all the members of the high school were drafted in one of the two societies. The two societies namely are the Baconians and the A.B.L.'s. The Baconians gave the first program. In the program they established the custom of reading a paper containing the items which would interest their opposing society. This custom has been followed in each program. The Baconians named their first paper, the Post, but owing to the name being unsuitable for contents, it was rechristened the Hornet. The A. B. L.'s named their paper the A.B.L.'s Picayune. The purpose of giving our programs is to bring out the stored up talent which the members of our high school contain, and



to give us practice in making appearances in public. The motto of A.B.L.'s Literary Society was Amatores banarum literarum."

Amy Abbott Schertiger continues, "The year I graduated was the first year the seniors did not have to memorize and recite their orations. Mary Hoit Herriott was in our class, so her uncle, Mr. Fleming, an attorney from Normal, was the speaker who gave the first Commencement address. It was held in the old "Abbott Hall." Mr. Morehouse (H.J.) gave us our diplomas."

The first Retro was published in 1911. In this Retro we read-- "The first Maypole Dance ever given by the Mahomet High School was given last spring, May 8, 1911 about six o'clock in the evening. The girls of the high school gave the dance. Miss Pearce, the Assistant Principal, trained them. Her advice and assistance proved invaluable. A senior girl, Mary Hoit, was elected queen. She played her part well. Besse Primmer acted as a Maid of Honor; six of the high school girls acted as attendants. Max Herriott acted as crown bearer. Some of the primary girls acted as flower girls. The dance itself consisted of four figures. It had been well learned and met with general approval. The pole was decorated with pink and nile green, the streamers were of the same color. Over in one corner of the campus a lunch stand was run by Helen Purnell and Fern Hoit (members of the class of 1912) and Fred Kroner and Guy Williamson (members of the class of 1913). They sold sandwiches, ice cream and candy. A large crowd witnessed the dance with great interest, for it was the first one of the kind that had been given here. This was so successful that Mahomet high school has concluded to give another dance this year."

Mrs. Mary Hoit Herriott has the distinction of being one of the few persons who can say that her father, C. B. Hoit, was one of the school board members from the time Mary entered grade school until her graduation from high school, serving in whatever community they might be. Mrs. Herriott's first school was Hannah and when in the fourth grade they moved into the Town of Mahomet where she attended the Mahomet grade and high schools, graduating in 1911.

Mrs. Herriott tells of being a sophomore at the time "Bill" Hayward was the Principal at the high school. "There were just the two high school rooms at that time. Miss Pearce was in charge of the one room and Mr. Hayward was in charge of the other room. One day, Mr. Hayward left the room and so some of the students congregated to tell a humorous story on a lady who swallowed a common pin. They were all laughing most heartily when Mr. Hayward came back into the room. He said nothing but presently announced that he would like for the following persons to come to his desk, namely---Vira Bryan, Jule Carson, Ruth Pricer, Mary Hoit and Sam Stout. We all marched forth and still no comment was made by Mr. Hayward except that we were to follow him. He took us down into the primary room where we all stood and were looked at by the small children and my younger sister, Edna, was in that room so I was especially embarrassed. Then, after standing there for a while, Mr. Hayward took us into the third and fourth grade room where the same procedure was followed of just having us stand there with no comment

but all the children watching us. Then he took us to the fifth and sixth grade room and here again was a younger member of my family, Myron, and all the children gazed at the five of us and our Principal and how embarrassed we were! From here we went to the seventh and eighth grade room and still all we did was just stand and let the younger children gaze at us. Then Mr. Hayward walked out and finally we were so embarrassed we walked out and returned to our own room. Mr. Hayward's technique was quite good for his reasoning was that since we had acted as small children (talking and laughing in the absence of our teacher) then we should be taken to the rooms of the small children."

Mrs. Herriott later explained to Mr. Hayward that for once she did not happen to be in on the fun in his absence so at noon when he walked home with her he apologized. They all remembered well their punishment. It is interesting to note, in passing, that Mr. Hayward is the only local boy who ever graduated from the school and later returned to act as the Principal of the school.

Below is a picture taken of the students when Ethel Wright Stookey was the teacher.



Teacher, and Pupils of Grade School

Bottom row, left to right-- Virgil Smith, Ernie Adams, Glenn Shell, Mervin Bell, Faye Smith, \_\_\_\_? Holly, Nathan Black, Bryan Stevens, Howard Long. Second row-- Ruth Purcell, Bernice Phillippe, Wilma Lindsey, Nellie Stout, Josie Burns, \_\_\_\_? Miller, Mildred Bryan, Freda Pike, Walter Bensley, Henry Zimmers. Third row-- Cora \_\_\_\_?, Mary Godwin, Ione Pricer, Ray Bailey, Luella Davis, Rosa Williams, \_\_\_\_?, Jim Heavins. Fourth row-- Zaye LeFever, \_\_\_\_? Purcell, Hubert Thomas, \_\_\_\_?, "Brownie" Wilkey, Janitor, Dad Heavins and Teacher, Ethel Wright.

Merle Hayward Clapper writes, "Mr. H. A. Richter was Principal of the high school when I was in the eighth grade. W. C. Hayward was my first high school teacher and principal for three years. Miss Mathilda Voss of Urbana was hired to assist him. The last year in high school

the principal was T. J. Stickrod with Miss Marie Wallin as his assistant. There were fourteen graduates that year (1912)--the largest class to graduate up to that time."

Sam Stout, one of the class of 1912 writes, "My only claim to being a first at anything around Mahomet, I believe, is that I was the first one to take a look at the the town from the air. I was a member of one of the first air squadrons that trained as pilots in this country at the beginning of World War I, which at that time was denoted as the Aviation Section of the Signal Corps, later known as the Air Force (about 1918.)"

Marie Wallin, Assistant Principal, writes, "I taught at Mahomet only one semester--January to June 1912. The only extra-curricular activitiy that I was responsible for was the Maypole Dance. It was part of a May Festival that had been started the previous year. I roomed with Jonas and Fanny Lester....I taught history, mathematics and Latin. As to transportation, Champaign was easy to reach--the Big Four had some passenger trains then."

Mr. T. J. Stickrod, former Principal, now living at Rossville, writes, "The members of the graduating class of 1912, as I remember were Vance Hood, Willis Black, "Phat" (Stanley) Spencer, Sam Stout, Helen Purnell, Vira Bryan, Lucy Murphy Wright, Merle Hayward, Margaret Godwin, Ferne Dale and Fern Hoit and another one or two I can't recall. My pupils called me the man with a sleepy walk. I was usually seen before I was heard. My office was at the head of the stairs and after school hours was the only time I had in it. We had a set of rules laid down by the school board such as: be strict, no gum chewing, guard against tardiness and absences, etc." Mrs. Elsie Wilson Rayburn, a teacher in the grade school at the time Mr. Stickrod was the Principal, recalls that Mrs. Stickrod always wore such extravagant hats.

Mrs. Elsie Wilson Rayburn relates an incident which occurred when she was teaching in 1911-1912--"The boys in my room were 'Nate' Black, Faye Smith, Raye Bailey, Jimmie Lindsey, Jim Carson and Harold Sloan. The janitor had warned me that the boys had their pockets filled with beans off of one of the trees which they called 'squeak beans.' If the janitor had not warned me I would never have known where the noise was coming from but having this advance information I just walked into the room and started no classes but just stood there. Then I told the boys I wanted them to come up and empty their pockets on the desk. Jimmie Lindsey came first and the others followed. Then I remember one of the girls who came to school each day looking as if she had fallen into a flour barrel, so white from using white talcum powder."

The best mental picture of athletics at the Mahomet school in these early days may be obtained from the information taken from the second issue of the Retro in 1912. They were telling of giving a play to support the athletic activities etc.

"Among the other numerous talents of the M.H.S. is our unusual amount in the dramatic line. Last year the drama, 'Tony, the Convict,'

was presented to a full house, all of whom afterwards declared that it showed a remarkable ability on the part of the students who took parts. In fact, so great was the praise received that in acknowledgment the students produced this play a second time with equal success. The proceeds of this show were given to the athletic association. This year as the association again became in need of funds we prepared and rendered with equal success, the comedy drama, 'Diamonds and Hearts.' We hereby wish to thank the high school girls who so willingly helped us in the show and also those who took part in specialties. We wish to state also that with the girls showing so much interest in our athletics we certainly have no excuse for not 'making good' in our contests for there is no school, be it far or near, who can boast of a more lovely, loyal, or enthusiastic bunch of supporters than is the gentler sex of our schools. Others whom we owe much of our success to are: Miss Jennie Pearce, Mr. William Hayward and Mr. C. A. Morehouse. The latter has proved himself a true friend of the high school in more ways than one for not only did he give both time and patience to the coaching of our different plays but also generously gave up his business to act as coach for our football team.



Football Team--1912

Front row, left to right-- Willis Black, Fred Kroner, Sam Stout, Guy Williamson, Frank Hood, Verne Rittenhouse. Top row-- Roscoe Lindsey, \_\_\_\_\_, Chet Morehouse, Vance (Bidge) Hood, Glen Bryan, Stanley Spencer

"In our school, baseball and basketball probably are the favorite games although football is also played. A track team was to be organized this spring; as winter has continued so far into the spring season it is doubtful if this will be accomplished.

"Last year, probably for the first time, old M.H.S. produced a baseball team which she was really proud of and which commanded the



respect of the other high school teams. Early in the season we made ourselves solid in a financial way by giving the drama, 'Tony, the Convict,' so as soon as weather would permit we purchased all necessary articles and began active practice, coached by our very competent professor, W. C. Hayward, who at one time was himself a baseball star. By winning the first game, a hard-fought contest with Homer, we became assured of a large and enthusiastic audience. At the end of the season we found that we had won, out of nine games played, seven, which is a per cent which very few teams can boast of. We were led in these victories by Manager Stout (Sam) and Captain Williamson (Guy).

"The history of the M.H.S. basketball team for the year of 1912 is one which will long be remembered in the athletic history of the school. About the last of October a call was sent out for players to try for the team. Owing to a poor response to the call, it was found to be a very difficult task to select a team. But practice was started about the first of November and a team was picked which was to represent the M.H.S. for the year of 1912. A meeting was now called and the following officers were elected: Vance Hood was elected Captain; Fred Kroner was elected Treasurer; and Guy Williamson was elected Manager.

"Several practice games were played and everything seemed to point to a winning team. But only one regular game had been played when the team had a misfortune of losing Spencer which caused them to change their team entirely. Shortly after this, Kroner was lost from the team and the task of securing another center until his return was brought before the team. The team had scarcely gathered together again when Downs was taken out of the game. This again gave the team a place to fill which was not an easy matter. But withstanding all these difficulties, the team led the M.H.S. to victory in six out of nine hard-fought games. At the start of the season, the team was reported to have quite a large sum of money on hands. Suits were ordered and this together with the hall rent and expenses of the visiting teams amounted to a great deal more than the receipts of the games, the entire amount in the treasury was used. On account of the team being unable to afford them, no sweaters were awarded to the team. The Tournament which was held in Decatur in February was not attended by the team. The team received a cordial invitation to attend the meet but owing to the lack of backing, they found it impossible to attend which was a great disappointment to them.

Entries taken from the record of the Board of Directors:--

December 12, 1913--Board met to let contract for remodeling engine room and buying new jack for water supply, also for letting the bid for new walk on west side of schoolhouse. Charles Lindsey agreed to put down the walk for 12 1/2 cents per foot; contract let. The Directors and Principal, Mr. Walker, decided to lower the passing grade of the school to seventy-five as a standard.

It is interesting to know that one of the new ten-story dormitories at Illinois State Normal University (1962) is called "Walker Dormitory" and was named after Lewis Walker (mentioned in the above paragraph) who taught school and was Principal at Mahomet in 1913-1914 and 1914-1915.



In 1913, the Township Spelling Contest was held at the grade school with Lisle Lester making the highest grade of 99; Zaye Gulic was second with 92 and Lenora Bensley was third with 91.

Stewart's Volume on Champaign County History tells that originally the school boards examined their own teachers and then it was put in the hands of the township trustees. Later the County Superintendent examined the certificates and the standards differed in the different counties. Then came the preparation of questions and grading of papers and in July 1914 a State Examining Board was set up. Other duties of the County Superintendent were to gather and tabulate statistics, give legal and educational advice and counsel and supervise the state common school system. More on the Superintendent and the certification of the teachers is found in the following chapter which is devoted to that topic.

The following entries taken from the Board of Directors' Book gives a picture of the control of the Board and the County Superintendent of Schools over the teacher and her discipline problems, as well as the rapidity with which they worked.

September 10, 1914--Board met with principal and had Miss \_\_\_\_\_ (who had only been hired July 30, 1914, and of course, school had not started until September) called to see if they could be of any assistance to her in the management of her room as there had been several complaints. She was advised by the Board that her work was not agreeable and good enough to hold her position. She thought it would get better if Mr. Walker would stay out of her room. Agreed, and adjourned.

September 30, 1914--Board met at Home Bank. William Walker, Principal, was called and asked if the order and disturbance of the room was improving. Thought it was getting worse. Miss \_\_\_\_\_ was called again by the Board and asked to resign her position on the grounds of incompetency and discipline. She refused. She said she would stay right there. Adjourned. J. N. Black, Clerk.

October 1, 1914--Board met at Home Bank. Decided to call Superintendent Watts to visit the room. He told her, Miss \_\_\_\_\_, that her work and order was poor and she would have to do better if she expected to hold her position.

October 31, 1914--Order from County Superintendent: to H. J. Morehouse, J. N. Black, F. L. Sloan, Directors.

District No. 29  
Champaign County, Illinois

Dear Sirs:

'You are hereby notified that the certificate of Miss \_\_\_\_\_ has been revoked by the County Superintendent of Schools of Champaign County, Illinois. You will therefore discontinue her services in your schools and pay her any money for services rendered after this date.

Very truly yours,

Charles H. Watts  
County Superintendent of Schools

Board called together to hear the reading of the letter. J.N.Black,Clerk

Mrs. Fred Jahr tells of when her oldest son, Frank, started to school under Ruth Purnell. "Someone knocked at the door of their room and immediately Frank's question was 'who was that?' Frank was accustomed to knowing who would come to the door at home so felt he should check on the visitors in the school room too."

In 1916, per the History of Mahomet published in 1955, the State Superintendent of Instruction notified Principal C. P. Bauman that the Mahomet High School had been given probationary recognition as a four-year high school and that the tuition rate had been raised to \$600, a sum sufficient to pay one of the teachers.

May 7, 1917 was the first time that mention was made of a separate music teacher in the schools.

In the Courthouse Record Book of Mahomet Teachers for 1918-1919, we found that the recognized two-year high schools in Champaign County were Foosland, Ludlow, Ogden, Penfield and Gifford; the recognized three-year high schools were St. Joseph, Tolono, Sidney and Philo; the recognized four-year high schools were Mahomet, Fisher, Homer, Rantoul and Longview.

In the Courthouse Record Book of Mahomet Teachers for 1920-1921, we found the enrollment in the Mahomet Community High School was sixty-two with eight and one-half months of school and four high-school teachers. The Principal was E. M. Deem at a salary of \$2,750 with an additional \$250 for summer work. In addition to his being principal, he taught physics, American history and civics. The Assistant Principal was Glenna M. Wilkins at a salary of \$1600; she also taught mathematics and history. Other teachers were Clara Bird at a salary of \$1600 who taught English and Latin and George Wickwire who taught agriculture and science at a salary of \$2200.

The entry for the Board of Directors for May 26, 1921--The Mahomet school board met at Lindsey's store for the purpose of signing the diplomas for the eighth grade graduates: Martha Daniels, Ruth McNeil, Lena Beals, Lorene Hartley, Ralph Buckles, Frank Jahr, Cleoh Dollahan, James Campbell, Sylvan Hawkins, Loyd Manuel, Vern McCracken, Harold Herriott, Hays Carson. Clerk, F. C. Daniel and President, B. S. Warner.

June 2, 1921--this was the first time that the Board of District No. 303, which would be the new high school district, was mentioned in the book of the Board of Directors. It was in 1921 that our Mahomet Community High School was built. Mr. John Abbott sold the Board the ground for the school.

Mrs. Lilah Drennan Rayburn writes, "Grade school fire drills were started in 1921-1922 and Mr. Bert S. Warner donated a firebell that was kept in the hall. It was also during these years that Armistice Day Programs were held at the Methodist Church and the children in each of the rooms in the grade school was to give a number on this program. Also, each room was responsible for a float in the Fall Festival. The First and Second grade room took first place with their float, 'The Old Woman in the Shoe' and my room, the fifth and sixth graders, placed second. Also, each room had a program at Christmas time. In 1923, the first

Grade School County Track Meet was held in Mahomet. Besides track events there were also formal gymnastics, folk dancing and mixed chorus."

Below is pictured the Mahomet Community High School, referred to in 1962 as the Junior High School.



In 1921-1922, home economics and chemistry were taught for the first time in the high school and also a full-time coach, Clarence Ems, was employed. Frank R. Rayburn writes, "I finished grade school when we moved to Mahomet. When I was a freshman we had three high school teachers. In 1921, we moved into the new community high school building. I always liked athletics. Our first football team consisted of Loyd Manuel, Bob Sloan, Roy Hinton, Wayne Armstrong, Bill Clapper, Clyde Taylor, Wilbur Manuel, Frank Rayburn, Edwin Hazen, Ralph Froman, Lloyd LeFever, Leslie Downs, Dale Dillman, Otto Beck and Ralph Foster. Clarence Ems was the coach. Yes, we lost more games than we won. Coach Ems said we should have what he did--a polished front and a concrete backbone."

February 15, 1922--The Reading Circle Books were ordered by the Board



First row, left to right-- Clarence Rayburn, Florence Crawford, Sabra Lindsey, Tinsie Lindsey, Ethel Wright, Olive Sweet, Lillian Sherman, Lattie Maxwell, Max Herriott

Second row-- Reethe Barber, Gertrude Smith, Ethel Taylor, Faye Miller, Edna Hoyt, Nellie Stout, Bernice Sweet, Wilma Lindsey, Faye Johnson, Almeta Jones

Third row-- Principal Dodsan, Meredith Roberts, Ralph Froman, Leo Bridges, Roy Keene, Frank Rayburn, Edwin Hazen, Raymond Wright, Faye Smith, Hubert Thomas, Stewart Wykle, Bob Sloan, Otto Beals, Teacher-- Ruth Caldwell.

Fourth row-- Mabel Irle, Elsie Wright, Zaye McCracken, Bernice Hinton, Coy Warner, Roscoe Ralph, Frances Hazen, Glenn Shell, Bernice Phillippe, Birdie Carter, Mabel Roberts, Bernice Smith, Teacher-- Ruth Pricer. Oscar Dale, Jr. and Bill Bailey skipped school that day so they would not have to have their pictures taken.

April 1922--it was moved and seconded that we have a Kindergarten to be free to all children between the ages of four and six for one term.

1922-1923--Manuel Training was taught in the high school.

April 21, 1923--Mrs. Hazel Stout was qualified as a Board Member. (Notice the spelling of "qualified" and yet they were questioning whether Hazel, a woman, would be qualified. She did act as Secretary of the Board for several years and her minutes were well kept, her penmanship was very good and she seemed more qualified than many board members in the past. This was the turning point in history for from then on the question was never raised as to whether a woman should or could serve on the Board of Directors. )

April 1923--all teachers employed should have normal training or credits in advance for the coming year.

Mrs. Elbert Morrison was elected to the School Board of the Mahomet Community High School in April of 1923.



Assemblies were held in the gymnasium at the beginning of 1923-1924.

May 16, 1923--Mrs. Olive B. McNeil's application for primary teacher was accepted at a salary of \$100 per month with kindergarten school this coming summer in preference to normal training.

July 1925--contract was let to Elmer Hawkins and W. Warner for \$354.05 for wiring the school.

At the "Class Night Exercises" they set up a mock Commencement exercise. When Frank Jahr's name was called off as one of the graduates his response was "pitch it over," (versus his walking up to receive his diploma). The Class Night Exercises were held in the Old Pastime Theatre. This was the same time that "Felipe Nightingale" sang "Just One Year Ago Tonight, Love." The good old days!

There were seventeen graduates in the Class of 1926 from the Mahomet Community High School. One of the most interesting things about this class is that there were six girls in the class with only one point's difference in their averages. Four of these girls had come from country schools which again proves that the child was educated as well, and often-times better, in the little country schoolhouse than when in the town or village school system. The six girls were Rose Wilson, Mary Wilson Warner, Louise Purnell Jones, Jessie Taylor Warner, Ruth Thomas Weinard and Velma Bryan Ponder.

1926-1927--a special commercial teacher and a special music teacher were employed. (Before, some of the commercial subjects such as typing, shorthand and bookkeeping had been taught by other teachers who had not actually been trained to teach such subjects.)

May 1927--it was decided to divide the primary room as Mrs. McNeil's room was too crowded; Mrs. McNeil is to teach first grade and Miss Genevieve Richardson will teach the second grade.

There were many things done year after year which were common activities of the school during the twenties and early thirties. For instance, as mentioned above, the Class Night programs were originally held in the "Old Pastime Theatre" and then later in the high school building. At this program, each class would put on a short one-act play, or a skit, or do a "take-off" on the faculty members, etc., thus setting up quite an evening's program. Can we forget the oft-quoted line, "Tabitha, rush into these arms" from the Cow that Kicked Chicago or "I say, Pass the Cream; when it is in the cream pitcher, it is cream and when it is in the milk pitcher, it is milk," from Pass the Cream, Please.

Then the fun of putting on the Junior Play or the Senior Play, and it was from such a play that "Sock" (George) Irle is often quoted when his line (as he acted out the part of the deaf grandfather) was, "I heard you the first time and you said ninety eight" (when the price had been raised to a dollar).

Then the fun of flying the class flag from the school belfry, a custom of those many years! Charlotte Busey related that she had



helped take down the Senior flag from the belfry and put up the Junior flag only a few days before the school burned down in May, 1906, and the author well remembers the fun of helping fly their class flag of blue and white (1928) from the high school roof on that beautiful moonlight night.

Then there were the "ups" and "downs" of the Junior-Senior Banquets which were originally held in some large spacious home of one of the members of the Junior Class, with some of the members of the sophomore class acting as waiters and waitresses. Weeks were spent in practicing for the Junior Play to earn the money to defray the expenses of this banquet. Then there were the weeks of planning and preparing all the favors, programs, nut cups and decorations for the big event which started at a Banquet hour of 6: or 6:30 and ended at the hour of 10:30 or 11: o'clock. All the students were home and nestled in their comfortable beds by midnight and am sure they had as much fun as they do in these present days of Proms and all-night affairs.

Then there would be a Community Welcome each Fall when all the new teachers and the ministers would be entertained and they would be made to feel as if they were a part of the Community. Then later at the community activities and programs the teachers were asked to participate and would help in the presentation of these programs, giving readings, solos, etc. The teachers were definitely a part of the community and accepted responsibilities in the church and in the community affairs.

It was in 1929, when there were only the thirteen members of the graduating class (seven boys and six girls), that the big decision came of getting away from the long-time tradition of the girls wearing white dresses for Commencement and lovely silk dresses of pastel shades for Baccalaureate and the boys wearing their newly purchased suits to the wearing of Caps and Gowns. The vote was cast. The vote was tied. The President's vote was cast. The tie was broken (for the President was a boy and the boys preferred Caps and Gowns). For the first time, Caps and Gowns were worn, and of course, have always been worn since that time.

Albert "Bill" Jahr was one of the graduates in the Class of 1930. When in the lower grades he had taken his report card home and was being questioned by his father. Mr. Jahr asked him why some of the grades were recorded in red. Bill's answer, "Oh, that means danger, Dad." Another time Mr. Jahr was questioning "Bill" in arithmetic, such as  $1 + 2 =$  what to which "Bill" responded "3." Then another question might have been  $6 \text{ take away } 2 =$  what and the answer was "4." Then Mr. Jahr asked "Bill," what is  $4 \text{ take away } 5$  and on this "Bill" pondered for some time and then answered, "By Gosh, it can't be did!" (These stories were related by Mr. Frank W. Taylor and had been told to him by Mr. F.O. Jahr at the time of their occurrence.)

These were the days of gymnastics for the girls with their required uniforms of black hose (lisle stockings), black full pleated bloomers--sateen, white middies with the black ties and white tennis shoes. Quite a contrast to 1962 where the uniform is probably shorts and sometimes the shorts would not meet specifications made for the men in foreign countries that they must be a hand and a half in width.

It was about this time that the music contests--piano and vocal solos, choruses etc. were started. Mahomet hired their first band instructor for the years 1931-1932.

The country school children may have graduated from the one-room school and gone into town for their high school days but their hearts remained in the country, especially in the spring of the year when the country school would have the "last day of school picnic" and a carload of former graduates would return to march along that table filled with delicacies and partake of these good foods. Then the group would always get back to high school late and have to go to the Principal's office for a permit to get into class.

And all the fun of initiation! Yes, there was the day for formal initiation, but there were advance initiations which might cost the class members twenty six cents each to pay the Doctor's bill, but the fun made the expenditure not at all out of reason.

The next several years were the years of the well-remembered depression and, of course, the first persons to feel the "pinch" were the teachers whose salaries were lowered as we see recorded in the Minutes of the Board of Directors' Meetings when in April 1932 we read--offered teacher contracts at a reduction of \$20. per month.

Oftentimes, our members of the Board were not too qualified for serving on the Board as evidenced by their spelling, grammar, etc. An example-- "The board excepted the contract. Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ will act as Priciple. Resignation was tendered by Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ and axcepted by the Board. Miss \_\_\_\_\_ seemed qualified, etc."

"Dad" Heavins was janitor for twenty-five years with only one year of this time (1921) being at the Mahomet Community High School and the remainder of the time being at the grade school, retiring in 1933. He was a most capable janitor and was loved and respected by both the teachers and the pupils.

An example of the overloading of the teachers that was done may be seen from the Board Minutes of May 1935 when we read that Louise Purnell Jones was employed to teach the fifth and sixth grades (this meant a total of fifty children) and the music in all the eight grades at \$80.00 per month (and to teach the music meant the directing of an operetta and the spring contests in vocal solos as well as the choruses.) 'Tis it any wonder that one of Mrs. Olive McNeil's recorded memories is that of Louise Purnell Jones rushing up and down the stairs as she looked after the music all over the building, along with her regular teaching load.

Louise Purnell Jones writes, "In Grade School in 1934-1935 we resumed a nine-month year after having an eight-month year because of the depression. Then in 1938, all teachers received a ten dollar per month raise which gave them \$100 per month for teachers and \$140 per month for the Principal. Billy Adams, janitor, was paid \$55 per month."



Pupils in the Fifth and Sixth Grades -- 1935-1936

First row, left to right-- Jean Carson, John Ponder, Virgil Smith, Elmer Deener, Robert Clapper, Philip Wegeng, Charles Smith, Dick Lindsey, Maurie Bauman, Ray Sparks, Lloyd "Boots" Todd

Middle row--Margaret Smith, Irene White, Pauline Brown, Vera Babb, Louise Ponder, Ruth Dady, Minnie Benskin, Eunice Coffin, Carolita Kroner, Evelyn Pointer, Betty Beightler, Raymond Carpenter

Top row--Burrell Hyatt, Robert Lindsey, Maurice Williamson, Dannie Beightler, Louise Purnell (Teacher) Rosalie Grindley, Alberta White, Betty Blair, Iva Bryant, Jeannette Cooke, Virginia Warner, Mary Bales

Absent: Jay Richey, Lillian Shobe, John Franklin Rayburn, Anna Gordon, Bobby Truitt, Jean Truitt

Louise Purnell Jones who taught the fifth and sixth grades from 1930-31 through 1938-39 tells that the common dress for the lady teachers then was the smocks which were worn over their regular dresses to protect them from the chalk dust and dirt, in general. These were the years when there were the reading circle books that had to be read, the meetings that were held for the reports to be given on these books and all of this in order to meet the requirements for the renewal of the teaching certificates. She relates some humorous incidents which occurred during these teaching years:

"Dean Davis had only a very short part in the Operetta which we were giving. His words were to be 'Land, Land!' (supposedly they were the Pilgrims who sighted land for the first time). Dean always pronounced it

'wand, wand' but when the day came he forgot his two words, and he was completely silent. (The gymnasium on second floor was filled with parents.)

"It was basketball tournament time and each of the players had given a short speech on how they were sure they could go in and win that game. Gerald Trinkle, the Manager, gave his talk which was, 'I am sure if we go in there with the right altitude we're sure to win.'

"Margaret Sloan Dees was having difficulty with her arithmetic and came to school asking help from me. Her explanation was, 'Mother figured all over the Sucker State and she couldn't get it.'

"Max Rex turned in his Music paper and on the outside signed his name, 'Max Rex, Seventh Grade, ever.'

"Betty Cook found sixth grade history a difficult subject and she responded very seldom in the class discussions. One day, however, Betty was eager to answer a question so I quickly called on Betty. Just as quickly though Betty's mind seemed to go blank. She hesitated and then said, 'Oh, I forgot....but I can say something else.'

"In fifth grade English the pupils were to write imaginary letters. James Grindly wrote: 'Dear Grandma: I am so sorry that you have died.'

"Rosemary Clapper (Buker) was an excellent student in the fine arts, but arithmetic was a difficult subject for her. When we studied common fractions in fifth grade arithmetic the pupils were asked to put problems on the board so their errors might be noted. Rosemary had finished her problem and was waiting at the board. When I came to Rosemary's work I said, 'Why, that's right, Rosemary' to which she replied, in her slow droll, 'Well, it's a won-der.'

"In the 1930's, even though we had as many as fifty pupils in our room, still there was a great deal of personal attention given to pupils, their problems, their stories about things which happened at home, etc. and every teacher knew the families of all the children in her room. Teachers took a personal interest in their pupils, knew their likes and dislikes as to foods, recreation, playmates, clubs, churches, etc. Likewise, the pupils depended on their teachers for various kinds of help. Maurice Williamson, known as 'Dutch' came to school one noon and said, 'Miss Purnell, be sure to remind me to get my hair cut tonight.'

"In sixth grade health, we were studying tobacco and the effect it has on the body. I said to Lloyd ('Boots') Todd, 'When you grow up, you're not going to smoke, are you, 'Boots?' To that he replied, 'No, I'm not going to smoke' and I felt real proud of his declaration. Then he went on to say, 'I'm going to chew' letting the wind out of my sails.

"Children ten and eleven years old have the feeling that anyone ten years their senior is really old. In sixth grade English, the pupils were to write descriptions of people, using a number of adjectives. Then the descriptions were to be read in class and other class members were to try to guess who the person was. Philip Wegeng wrote a description of

his teacher, Miss Purnell, and among other lines he said, 'She is, I would judge, about fifty years old.' (I was in my early twenties.)

"Maurice Williamson and Robert Leland Lindsey got into a bit of a spat. Maurice called Robert Leland a 'sissy' which made him angry, naturally, and he responded that he was not a sis. To this Maurice said, 'Well, you at least knew your name.'

"One of the questions I had asked in health was, 'What would you do if you sprained your ankle? Coy Benskin's answer was, 'Why, Miss Purnell, if I sprained my ankle--why, I wouldn't do anything.' "

Louise Purnell Jones had kept a book of some of the themes, poems etc. written by these pupils which she shared with us and a few are being printed-- (they were a part of their year book--CLASS HISTORY--which also contained the "Prophecy," the "Will" etc.)

#### MY SCARE

By Robert Morrison

One summer day two years ago I went swimming. My dog went too. When I got there I saw a man. He wasn't fishing or doing anything. I had just put on my bathing suit. The man took out a pistol and started swinging it around on his fingers.

I picked up my clothes and ran like I was shot. I was expecting to be shot any minute. I ran over to Stouts and they weren't home. So I went in the back door and hid under the table. I finally phoned Mother to come out and get me.

#### WHEN I WAS SCARED

By Keith Davis

One evening I was chasing a mouse. It ran up my pants leg. I was hunting for it. When I was ready to sit down for supper I felt something in my pants leg. I did not know what it was so I squeezed it. It was the mouse. I squeezed it to death.

#### STATE TOURNAMENT

By Virginia Smoot

Our State Tournament was everything but a failure for us. We went straight through. Some of the games were very close but we won. It seemed to us that, "A miss was as good as a mile."

To me the last game was the most important. It was the closest game, but we won by a small margin. The game ended eighteen to seventeen in our favor. One of our boys hurt his ankle. The trophies were presented and we were proud of ours.

#### STATE TOURNAMENT

By Dale Moore

In the State Tournament every game was good. Mahomet played Grays



Lake and beat them. Then Friday night we beat Bloomington. Saturday afternoon we played Forrest and we beat them. Saturday night when we played Cissna Park, it was a fast game. Cissna Park made a basket and then Mahomet made one; 18 to 17 was the score. Pasley got hurt the second quarter.

When the game was over Mahomet was yelling and jumping.

#### OUR HALOWE'EN PARTY

By Clarence Todd

Friday we had a Hallowe'en party. Robert Morrison got first for best mask. He had a dress and half mask. He really looked like a girl. Bobbie Roberts got first for guessing how many grains of corn in a jar. He guessed 786 grains and there were 777 grains. Then we had a peanut contest, to see who fed the other the most peanuts. We also had a bean carrying contest.

#### POEM

By James Jones

I have a little dog  
He does a lot of tricks.  
Once he jumped through a loop  
and gave a big whoop.

#### THE GOOD DOG

By Frances Lindsey

There was a very good dog,  
A very good dog was he  
He dances and capers round the log,  
And fills all with glee.

His master and he went fishing,  
And he found himself wishing  
That he had a fishing rod,  
And could catch a fine cod.

#### MY DOG

By Woodrow Crowley

My dog catches rats  
and chases cats  
I like her  
and she likes me.

#### MOTHER

By Lois Williamson

Mother's soft gentle eyes  
are what I prize.  
Her hair is turning gray,  
But I love her more each day

#### EASTER

By Maynard Shull

Chickens with two legs,  
Lay Easter eggs.

One year, when Mrs. Lulu Dale Buker was teaching the third graders, it was her custom, at a certain time in the afternoon, to have the children lay their heads over on their arms on their desks and relax. During this time, Mrs. Buker would attempt to put the children in a restful and relaxing mood by verbally painting a picture of some scene. One year when her nephew, Bob Dale, Jr., was in her room, she asked the children to imagine they were beside a beautiful lake with the trees at the side, reflected in the mirror-like lake and that a boat was lazily gliding along, etc. It so happened that for that evening the Dales had planned one of their usual "cook-out" family picnics so at the end of the rest period, Bob Jr. came forward and remarked, "When you were talking, I couldn't see that lake at all--all I could see was a big plate of hamburgers and a kettle of baked beans."

Mr. Ora Crowley was hired as janitor at the Mahomet Community High School in the summer of 1923 and continued his work through August of 1945. For twenty-two years, "Orie," as we all called him, performed his work in an efficient manner. He knew as much about any of the pupils, if not more, than many of the teachers and parents. Ora knew the year any one of the boys or girls graduated, the other members of that graduating class, who was a good student and who was not a good student, scholastically, all about the ball teams, the coach, the discipline problems and the ups and downs of the school in general. It was only a short time before his death that he related to the author the incident previously recorded about the five girls from the class of 1926 and was able to quote their exact averages. It is no wonder that we all disliked seeing his day of retirement come but hold wonderful memories of him as a friend and janitor in our school.

Mrs. Elbert Morrison was elected to the School Board of the Mahomet Community High School in April of 1923 and served for twenty-four years--through April 1947. During this time, Mrs. Morrison was Secretary of the Board all but one year. This is the longest time any one person has served on Mahomet's School Board.

We find no information on the original Parent Teachers' Association which was held back in its earliest days. The author remembers that when she was in high school there was a Parent Teachers' Association, but no records were found. Mrs. Louise Purnell Jones said that when she was teaching in the grade school, the organization was known as the Mother's Club and the President was Mrs. Nelle Morrison. "Later the President was Mrs. Edna Kroner. Mrs. Adah Davis was very active in the organization. Meetings were held in the afternoon. Some mothers visited the rooms prior to the meetings. Once a year, an evening meeting was held and both fathers and mothers attended. I was always nervous when parents came to visit."

Mrs. Paul Keith Anderson, Secretary of the Parent-Teachers' Association for the year of 1961-1962 writes, "The books that I have date back to 1947. Mrs. E. W. Morrison was the first President of the Parent-Teachers' Association which was then called the Mother's Club. She

served from 1922 through 1932. We find no information as to when they changed the name from the Mother's Club to the Parent Teachers' Association. Mrs. Fred L. Kroner was the second President and served from 1932 through 1936.

"The Parent Teachers' Association has sponsored the Cub Scouts since October of 1947; purchased a movie projector and equipment; purchased playground equipment in 1953; purchased backdrops for the stage in 1955; purchased blackout shades to be used during the movies in 1956; sponsored a cerebral palsy victim to the University of Illinois in 1956; purchased, with the help of the School Board, the ditto machine in 1958; and has helped sponsor the summer recreation program for many years."

In 1936, a special teacher for art, penmanship and music was employed for the grade school. In February 1937, the north end of the Mahomet Community High School was finished making it possible to have a separate room to be used as an auditorium and study hall, a stage etc. In 1937-38, a special public speaking teacher was hired in the high school. In 1941-42 was the beginning of having one teacher for each of the grades in the grade school. In 1943-44, a twenty dollar bonus was given to each teacher at the end of the year.

Then came the years for the closing of the country schools. In 1943-44, there was no school held at Cherry Grove; Salem was opened for one month in the fall of the year and then because of the lack of students it was also closed. However, both schools were not officially closed until 1946-1947; this same year (1946-1947), Harmony, Fairview, Cresap, North and Koogler country schools closed. In 1947-48, the Union, Harris, Wright and Hannah schools closed. Martin country school was the last one to close and this was in 1948-1949.

In 1947-48, there was a special teacher for handicapped children.

In 1948, with the closing of all the country schools and disposal of schools and grounds (explained under the history of each of these schools), the Unit District was formed. The many rural school districts were incorporated into a unit which comprised ninety square miles. Only Mahomet High School remained open to accommodate the graduates of the elementary schools of the unit; the three-year high school at Seymour became a grade school only. The Mahomet and Seymour grade schools each enrolled children in grades one through eight. A hot-lunch program was begun in all three centers, having been started earlier at the Mahomet Grade School under the sponsorship of the P.T.A. Transportation was by bus.

In 1952, the building which cost \$225,000 was first used in the fall for the first six grades, and to provide a cafeteria and community room.

Even though this history does not go up to our present year of 1962 it still seems fitting and proper to make some brief statements on our new Community Unit District No. 3 as written by Mr. Kenneth C. Brumm, Current Superintendent of Schools for the District,

"Unit District No. 3 was formed and became official on July 1, 1948.

"The first Board of Education for the newly formed unit district consisted of Clarence Rayburn of Hensley Township; V.C. Kokensparger, Newcomb Township; J.W. Rayburn, Scott and Champaign Township; Percy Lorash, Scott Township; and Arberry Yount, Homer Keller and James F. Parker of Mahomet Township.

"Mr. C. F. Gnagey was the first Superintendent of the unit. Clarence Rayburn was elected the first President of the Board of Education and V. C. Kokensparger was elected the first Secretary of the Unit Board of Education. Mr. W. P. McElroy was employed as High School Principal and Mr. Russell Shelton was employed as Principal of the Seymour Elementary School. Mr. Carleton was employed as the Mahomet Elementary School Principal.

"At the end of the school year of 1948-49, there were twenty-nine teachers in the unit. These teachers were employed in the Mahomet Elementary School, the Mahomet-Seymour High School, the Seymour Elementary School, and the South Prairie School. It was recommended that Industrial Arts, Advanced Algebra, Trigonometry, Modern Foreign Language, Speech, and Physics be added to the high school curriculum. The Board of Education agreed that it would be wise to add these subjects as they could be effectively done.

"In 1951-52, the annual report to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction showed that there were 390 elementary students and 15 elementary teachers. The seventh and eighth grades were housed in the high school and a new elementary building was being erected.

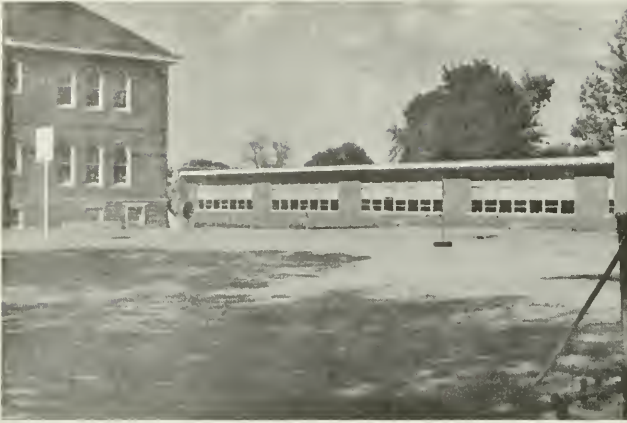
"In 1952-53, the high school had 126 pupils and there were eleven teachers. The assessed valuation of the unit was \$15,241,573. Mr. O. W. Osborne was the Superintendent at this time

"The high school building had been erected in 1919 at the cost of \$120,000 and in 1937, an addition was put on it at a cost of \$14,500.

"In 1960-61, the unit had 561 elementary students and 194 high school students. The faculty consisted of 42 teachers and administrators. In 1961-62, there were 599 elementary students and 204 high school students. There were still 42 teachers and administrators.

"In September of 1961, the new Mahomet-Seymour High School Building was occupied. This building was made possible by a \$720,000 bond issue and has about 53,000 square feet of space. The old high school building became a Junior High School, housing the seventh and eight grades.

"Between the years of 1951 and 1961, many changes in curriculum came about. Methods and materials changed throughout the system. In the high school, the following subjects were added to the curriculum: Industrial Arts, Advanced Algebra, Trigonometry, Advanced Mathematics, Speech, Physics, and French. The new high school contains two modern science laboratories for the teaching of science. There is also a speech and foreign language laboratory with electronic equipment to aid in the learning of languages. Modern facilities have aided greatly in keeping pace with modern education. Advanced Biology and Advanced Physical Science classes as well as Advanced Mathematics courses are being planned for the very near future.



Pictured at the left is the old grade school building with its 1952 addition. The original grade school building of brick was at a cost of \$4,824 in 1865. However, this building has been replaced twice. The addition of 1952 was at a cost of \$225,000. The earliest contract let for the teacher's desk and the pupils' chairs, per plan designated, was \$2.95 each, in 1865.

The Junior High School Building was built in 1919 at a cost of \$120,000. with an addition of \$14,500 in 1937. Below is pictured the Mahomet-Seymour High School, Unit District No. 3 of 1962 which was built at a total cost, including equipment of \$751,000. This year a teacher's desk was \$80; a desk in the Junior High School with lid was \$27. each; the chair with an arm at the side used in the Senior High School was \$14. each.







Mr. J. A. Carson in his Drug Store

Mr. Ben Carson, a Danville druggist, furnished us the picture of his father in the old Carson Drug Store, the oldest business place in Mahomet which was started in 1869 and is now being run by a son, John. Just as we would dislike returning to the stores of these early days, as efficient as they may have been run by the owner or manager, so we would dislike returning to the early schools for our education. We have made a comparison on the costs of our school buildings and equipment, so let us look at a comparison on taxes, the source of income for these educational centers. The taxes on a certain 216 acres in Mahomet Township in 1923, the taxes being paid in 1924, were \$281.90.

The taxes on this same acreage, with no particular buildings or improvements having been made, were \$1586.00 for 1961, taxes being paid in 1962. What price education ! Yet, we would not want to regress. Of course, there are other benefits that we as citizens derive from these taxes but our school system, improved highways, etc. are some of the causes for these increased taxes.

Mr. "Colonel" Phillippe tells of renting the house and six acres of adjoining land (on the south side of Route 150 across the street from the Gulf Station, at the end of Route 47) in 1901 for \$125 for the year. Now rentals in the town of Mahomet may be \$125 per month with no added acreage.

## CHAPTER XX

### COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, COUNTY INSTITUTES, COUNTY TEACHERS' EXAMINATIONS, COUNTY FINAL EXAMINATIONS

A book on the early school history would not be complete without one chapter devoted to the office of the County Superintendent of Schools and his duties and activities--examination and certification of teachers, the teachers' institutes and meetings, final Township and County examinations for the pupils, monthly examinations for the pupils, sale of school lands (Section 16), collection of notes and bonds, distribution of taxes to townships on the basis of pupil attendance, etcetera.

Mr. Charles W. Dale writes, "In that early day there were no County Superintendents of Schools but they were called Commissioners. The first-named Commissioner was John Mead who served in 1838 and 1839. Mr. Mead was a grandfather of Charles W. Dale of St. Joseph, Illinois and of Mr. F. L. Dale of Skiatook, Oklahoma and a great grandfather of the Dales now residing in Mahomet and vicinity. Other Commissioners and their terms of office following Mead were: Moses Thomas, 1840; John E. Thomas 1846-1848; William Peters 1849-1850; Paris Shepherd 1851-1852; J. W. Jaquith 1853-1854; John B. Thomas 1855-1856; Thomas R. Leal 1857-1873; and S. L. Wilson 1874-1876. The first Superintendent of Schools was Mrs. Calista Larned from 1877-1881. Mrs. Larned resigned in 1881 and George R. Shawhan was appointed."

The dates for these Commissioners as supplied by Brink, McDonough and Company vary from Mr. Dale's record. Mr. Mead was appointed as Commissioner in 1836 per the records of our County Commission Book A. Brink and McDonough's dates refer to the time of the election versus Mr. Dale's record, which dates would be the time the men took office. It is believed that Mr. Dale's record is the correct one. Brink & McDonough gives Moses Thomas as March 1843, William Peters as March 1850, Paris Sheppard as December 1853, J. W. Jaquith as March 1854 and John B. Thomas as April 1854.

Mr. Harshbarger, the present County Superintendent of Schools, reports that George R. Shawhan served as County Superintendent of Schools from 1881-1902, followed by Charles H. Watts from 1902 to 1931. Mr. George Wright, one of Mahomet's graduates in the class of 1892, served as Assistant Superintendent of Schools from 1907 to 1940 under Mr. Watts, Mr. Flanigan and Mr. Harshbarger. Mr. Flanigan was in his term of office for only six weeks and then was "ousted" because of difficulties in an Urbana Court Trial and was replaced by Ernest Harshbarger who was appointed for the first term, taking over his duties on the first Monday of August 1931, was then elected, and is still serving.

An article which appeared in the Biographical Sketches published in 1900 gives a paragraph or two on one of our first School Commissioners.

"Thomas R. Leal--County Superintendent of Schools for sixteen years, elected 1857-1872 on Republican ticket. At that time there were only

forty-five schools in the County, most of which were new and twenty-seven of these were conducted in log cabins but when he retired sixteen years later there were over two hundred substantial school buildings here, either frame or brick, costing from \$500 to \$75,000. As the county became more thickly populated, the attendance at school increased in proportion.... He organized the first Institute here. At that time, school methods were crude and had to be popular with the public before they were adopted. In holding his institutes he had to get the recognition of the prominent people of the place whom he persuaded to attend and enter the class of teachers and in this way he got all interested and did much to educate the teachers. At his second institute held in the same place the church was packed to the doors. He was succeeded by one of his old teachers. He prepared the people to vote a half million dollars to get the University located here. He is now (1900) excavating for the main agricultural building and tunnel, the building being the largest purely ag building in the world--one-fourth mile around and contains over an acre of floor space."

One of the duties of the County Superintendent of Schools had always been the distribution of tax funds to the districts, collection of notes and interest from sale of school lands (Section 16) etcetera.

Mr. Harshbarger states that there had always been a Township Board of Trustees until 1952 when they were replaced by a County Board of Trustees. Before the members of the County Board took over their duties, the Township Trustees had to finish up the old business. One piece of unfinished business for the Township Trustees was the sale of some land in Section 16. The piece of land to be sold was a narrow strip of land, approximately one mile wide, part in Vermillion and part in Champaign Counties, between the towns of Penfield and Royal (160 acres in one place and two 80-acre tracts at another place) which had never been sold. The County Trustees had to collect the money from the sale of these lands as well as money on old notes, bonds, etc. and turn it over to the County Superintendent of Schools who distributed it to the elementary schools in that District. Distribution was made on the average daily attendance of pupils in the District.

Some comments made by teachers and students--

Maymee Taylor Clark--"A few visits from the County Superintendent, G. R. Shawhan, were greatly appreciated." Adelia Stearns--"He was required to personally visit each and every country school in the County. He soon found out who and where the bright, scholarly pupils were, verified by the Teacher's Report Book. Every year he would come unannounced, at least once." Lura Abbott Harper--"The County Superintendent of Schools sent out monthly sheets of examination questions. These were dreaded by pupil and teacher alike." Mrs. Charles Purnell--"Most of the older persons vividly remember George Shawhan." And of course those of the next generation well remember Mr. Wright and Mr. Watts. Louise Purnell Jones remembers that when she was teaching in the Mahomet Grade School, someone came back from lunch and reported that Mr. Harshbarger and Mr. Wright were in town; her comments--"Was there ever a scurry to get everything in readiness before the one o'clock bell rang! I could hardly wait until they left to see what comments were written in the back of the big flat register."

An article in Brink & McDonough's early history tells of the Teachers Institutes which were started in the Spring of 1857 with seventeen teachers attending. At first (from 1857-1872) they had two sessions of one week each but for the next five years (1873-1878) they were held for three weeks at a time. The teachers had Township Meetings in addition to the County School Meetings, the expenses of which were defrayed by the teachers. With the County Meetings, the first years the teachers were entertained gratuitously and then they paid their own board and room. Later the Institutes were under the supervision of the County Board of Education.

As previously stated, Mr. Leal, County Commissioner, started the first Institute in 1857. The second Institute was held in the church at Homer for one week, beginning October 4, 1858, with four instructors and seventy-five persons attending. The funds applicable for the purpose were \$64. The four instructors were T. R. Leal, County Education Commissioner who acted as President and Mr. Gutcheon, A. W. Freeman and W. I. Gunning.

A newspaper article written by the County Superintendent, George R. Shawhan, and pasted in the front of the Courthouse book of recorded teachers for the county gave some interesting facts regarding the manner of conducting the Superintendent's Institute, (not the Teachers' Institute). "The meeting of the County Superintendents at the High School is today. There will be about thirty-five Superintendents present. The plan is to call upon certain subjects and have the County Superintendents express their views. After discussing the subject, the State Superintendent sums up the points made and obtains a vote on some of them. They will use academic studies to illustrate methods of teaching. They will have class exercises and by this means present their methods and their philosophy of teaching. I want to emphasize the matter of reading. We fail to get all the discipline out of our studies through lack of the ability to read. Primary reading is fairly well studied but somehow the pupils do not hold out. In higher grades, they do not get the drift of the subject on perusal. There is a great discipline in a pupil's treatment of reading. This subject must be reached or good intelligent reading in the higher grades will become a lost art and some of our most important instruments of culture will become obsolete."

In addition to the County Institute they also held Teachers Meetings. In the Courthouse Book on Teachers Meetings 1892-1902, a statement was made that the Teachers Meeting was organized September 17, 1892. There was listed the members among whom were W. H. Rusk, D. C. Morehouse, W. D. Madden and J. Hissong, men recognized as Mahomet's teachers. Their dues to this meeting was twenty-five cents each. In the following paragraph there are items from the minutes of this first meeting.

The meeting opened at 10:30 a.m. The first in order was election of officers. The Treasurer's report showed an amount on hand of \$2.25. A fee of twenty-five cents was voted to be collected from each person as membership. They decided that the secretary be paid a dollar for a report at each meeting, the report to be sent to the paper for publication. An Executive Committee of five was appointed. It was this Committee then who later reported at the Teachers Institute to list the requirements they



had set up as being necessary to obtain and hold what they called a Professional Certificate. In the afternoon there was a lecture by Prof. Rolfe of the University of Illinois whose subject was "The Effect of Alcohol and Narcotics on the Human System." The record of departments of study for the coming year were History, Child Studies, Pedagogy, Science, Literature and Music. A paper was read on the assignment of lessons by Mr. Rusk which was followed by discussions. Then there was a talk on Bacteriology by Prof. Barton. The meeting adjourned to meet again the third Saturday in October.

A copy of the Teachers' Institute Program was found in the Book on Teachers' Institutes 1892-1902 which is given below, in brief.

COUNTY INSTITUTE PROGRAM, 46th SESSION July 28-August 15, 1902

Instructors of Sessions								
Time	Hays	Shawhan & Watts	Johnson	Brinckly	Switzer	Moore	Lake	Barr
7:40-8:25	Arith.			Botany	History	Music	Drawing	Sewing
8:30-9:15	Grammar	Algebra						
9:20-10:05	Chapel Exercises and Superintendent's work Mr. Moore--Learning Songs							

There were also afternoon sessions, the Institute lasting from 7:50 to 5:45. Each person was to mark the classes she attended and turn in her program at the end of the day; by this means they were able to take the attendance. The last sessions in the afternoon were on observation work. For the two periods in the morning and the two periods in the afternoon, one could choose the different sessions she preferred attending. It appeared that there was a fee of perhaps fifty cents for attending, although sometimes it was one dollar so it could not actually be determined if there was a fee charged, and, if so, exactly how much it was. There was a list of persons (in the Courthouse book) who had paid for their subscription to School News (\$1.25 per year) and a receipt made to Shawhan, County Superintendent of Schools, for \$22.50 for thirty subscriptions to School News. There was also a list of persons who had subscribed to Harper's Monthly. There was also in this same book a list pertaining to libraries which again was difficult to understand, such as: October 31, 1898, Maymee Taylor (Clark) 25 cents.

Recorded in this book was the list of the persons attending the Institutes back to 1892. There was little information on the first meeting. Also in the book were slips of paper which may have been sent out in advance to the teachers to be returned if they planned on attending the Institute; these slips may have been given to them at the door. Information to be filled in on the slips was: Name, address, age in years and months, experience in months, where educated, native state and I expect to attend \_\_\_\_\_ (how many) days.



In the Teachers Book for 1904-1905 was found a notice of the year's program for the Citizens and Teachers Association which met quarterly.

Adelia Stearns writes, "Instead of a three-day Teachers' Institute in August, as of now, we had three weeks of it with an examination the last two days for those who had not secured their certificates. Teachers were required to appear in person to each board member, hand in a written application, be prepared to show her grades from examinations at the County Teachers' Summer Institute, which was held in Urbana for three weeks every year in August. Questions asked by the County Superintendent before you were admitted to the Teachers' Institute were: Are you a Christian? What is your church affiliation? Do you use liquor in any form? Have you any natural aptitude for teaching? Did your father or mother teach? Have you ever been in trouble or arrested? What high school did you attend? What is your actual age? All teachers, old or young had to be high school graduates."

In Stewart's Volume on early Champaign County History there is a paragraph on the County Superintendent of Schools,--"Originally the Boards examined their own teachers. Then it was put in the hands of the township trustees. Then the County Superintendent examined the certificates and the standards differed in the different counties. Then came the preparation of questions and grading of papers and in July, 1914, a State Examining Board was set up. The County Superintendent was to gather and tabulate statistics; give legal and educational advice and counsel and supervise the state common school system."

Another book found in the Courthouse was that which recorded the examinations for teachers from 1877 to 1886. Some of the early Mahomet people to take the exams were Frank Pittman on December 22, 1877; Anette Frankenberger on January 5, 1878; Hattie Herriott on January 5, 1878; Emma Herriott, John W. Lindsey, and J. A. Lucas. Comments were often-times given beside the person's name (but more often than not the space was left blank). Some comments were: start good, provisional, slack, inefficient, poor work so left the state, not acquainted with the work and left the state, renewed, etc. Perhaps the persons who were "not acquainted with the work and left the state" may have come from Kentucky or some other place and then returned to their home state.

There was also a record of the examinations of the applicants for the teachers certificates with the grades they had made in the various subjects and other necessary information. An example:

Subjects and Respective Grades	Names of applicants for teachers' certificates					
	Dora F. Burton	Bartholow	Cochran	Mott	*Pugh	*Bartholow
Orthography	75	18	93	70		72
Reading	80		90	92		90
Penmanship	75	70	88	80		70
Arithmetic	76	3	80	97		62
Grammar	65	16	65	77	65	63
Geography	75	63	90	70	56	78
History	62	86	82	90	77	86
Average	73		84	82		
Other information:						
Age of applicant	22		22			
Grade of Certificate	1		2	2		
Date of Certif.	3/10/87		3/28/87	8/13/87		1/7/88
Expiration Certif.	3/11/88		3/28/88	8/12/88		
No. months taught	12 1/2		3			
School where will teach			Wright			

\*This was the same Bartholow who had taken the exam the previous year and had failed so he took it again. It appears that Cora Pugh Purnell did not pass the examination the first year, or perhaps did not even finish writing it.

Others who were from Mahomet and were listed as having taken these examinations in these early days were: Minnie Osborn, W. O. Lindsey, Charles Thomas, Dora Cochran, D. C. Morehouse, Kate Wright and M. O. Stover.

Adelia Renfrew Stearns tells that there were two grades of certificates--the First Grade Certificate which entitled you to teach high school subjects in the country school and the Second Grade Certificate which did not include the high school subjects. Mr. Harshbarger explained the two kinds of certificates--"The First-Grade Certificate was given to you upon graduation from high school and after six months of teaching, plus an examination in certain subjects or upon graduation from Normal School. To get the First-Grade Certificate, you took examinations in English, general history, algebra, botany, zoology and physiography, as well as an exam in those other subjects which you had to take to get the Second-Grade Certificate--orthography, reading, penmanship, arithmetic, grammar, geography and history." Mr. Harshbarger showed the author his First-Grade Certificate and his report card that had been issued to him showing the grades he had made in the respective subjects to get both his First-Grade and his Second Grade Certificates.

Mr. Harshbarger also explained that to get a certificate for the office of County Superintendent of Schools one had to take another examination. In 1929, the teachers exchanged their First- and Second-Grade Certificates for the Limited State Elementary Certificates. Mr. Harshbarger continued to explain that by 1964, to obtain a certificate for teaching, one must qualify by having college credits for there will be no more examinations given by the County Superintendent of Schools.

Audie Foster Ring writes--"Since the law required a 'would be' teacher to be at least 17 1/2 years of age, I could not begin teaching until the year 1902 and then there were more teachers than schools. I landed a school in Condit Township at \$40 per month. Myrtle Rayburn taught the same year at Jersey School for \$25. I had the Warner boys--Carrie, Jesse, Vern and Guy."

In the Teachers Institute Book of 1892-1902 we found a report of the Committee on Institute Work for 1898 which report included the requirements set up for a Professional Certificate, namely:

1. Read Tompkin's Philosophy of Teaching
2. Read Colley's Physics or Hinsdale's Civil Government or Painter's Introduction of English Literature or Educational Foundations for 1898-9
3. Be an active member of some local Institute
4. Read before some Institute a paper of 1200 or 1500 words upon some educational topic, this paper to be put in the hands of the County Superintendent
5. Pass an examination on books read
6. Prepare an abstract on the books read

Perhaps the reading of the books as mentioned in the above requirements for such a certificate prompted the requirement made later to read what were termed, during the next generation, "Reading Circle Books" with the necessity of making reports on such books read.

Another duty of the County Superintendent of Schools was the administration of the Final Examinations. Charles Dale writes, "Then along near the end of the school year there would be a county examination held in Urbana by the Superintendent in which all grammar school students of the eighth grade took part to see who was the champion student of the County."

T. J. Stickrod, one of Mahomet's earlier teachers, writes, "One of the high lights at that time was the two County Examinations--Central, which was held in the Township, and then the Final for all who had passed a certain grade in the Central Exam. The Final was held in Urbana. A teacher was largely judged by the number of pupils who passed the Final Exam. At this time, Charles Watts was the County Superintendent of Schools."

Maymee Taylor Clark, both a student and teacher at Salem School, and Edith Shively Wegeng, a student at Cherry Grove, both remarked in their letters of school memories about the Final Examinations.

The Central and Final Examinations which were conducted by the County Superintendent were the focal points of the upper grades and were important

from their inception until their end. All remember the days of reviewing for these examinations, with the reviewing sessions for the country school seventh and eighth graders being held after school hours. There were those questions which were similar from year to year but yet were "catchy" and difficult for the child. The author well remembers her attempts on the question--"If a tree casts a shadow so long, and a post so tall casts a shadow so long, how tall is the tree, etcetera," or her attempts to draw that milkweed pod or the narcissus or petunia--those vivid memories!!!!

According to the Record of Final Examinations Book in the Courthouse the first Final Examination was given March 14, 1885. In the front of the book was a list of those townships that had participated and the number of pupils who had taken the examinations (which were given on the different dates for the different townships) such as: Scott-21; Colfax-10; Sadorus-29; Pesotum-5; Tolono-12; Urbana-14; Philo-24; Crittendon-13; Raymond-10; Sidney-24; Ayers-3; Brown-18; and East Bend-6, making a total of 189 participating. It also listed the names of those persons who had participated, their ages, grades made in the subjects, averages and rank. Mahomet did not participate this first year.

Names of persons from Scott Township whom one recognizes were: Clara Stedem, age 11; William Stedem, age 15; Ida Carper, age 20; Clara Christie, age 17 with an average on all subjects of 85 5/7 and ranking one; and Minnie Wheatley whose age was not recorded but who did have an average of 84 5/7 and a rank of two. It is interesting to note that the youngest girl was eleven years of age and the oldest one was twenty. Of course, as one looks at it, one realizes that the competition between the two age levels would not be fair because with nine more years of schooling one should have a background, experience and repetition of subject matter which would warrant his doing better and thus making better grades.

The Township Examination was given in February, perhaps, and then later the Final County Examination was given. In the 20's there was just the one County Final Examination given in certain Townships. Mahomet's pupils did take the exams in 1885-1886 according to the Courthouse Book with the following participants:-- (the names of the teachers for each school were not listed)--

Tena Dale	age 18	av. 89	4/7	rank 1
Belle Johnston	age 20	av. 76	5/7	rank 14
Grant Johnston	age 17	av. 61	3/6	
Rosa Bellinger	age 14	av. 65	1/7	rank 18
Kate Bellinger	age 16	av. 68	6/7	rank 15
Inez Lindsey	age 15	av. 62		rank 19
Cora Pugh	age 15	av. 79	3/7	rank 11
Charles Thomas	age 17	av. 82	4/7	rank 7
Dasie Scott	age 16	av. 49	6/7	rank 23
Wirt McCormick	age 14	av. 84	3/7	rank 3

Then for Scott Township for this same year was recorded that Clara Stedem, now age 12, took the examination with an average of 55 5/7. She was recorded as having taken the examination the previous year.

The record for the following year of 1886-1887 reads:

Nellie Cochran	age 22	av. 93 6/7	rank 1
Nate Wiles	age 21	av. 81 2/7	rank 3
Charles Thomas	age 18	av. 92	rank 2
Cora Pugh	age 16	av. 89 2/7	
Belle Davis	age 17	av. 73	
Anna Scott	age 14	av. 76 4/7	rank 7

By the time you were twenty-two years of age, how many times would you have taken the exams? After so much repetition should one not rank one and is it fair to compete with the eleven-year old child?

Pasted in the front of this book was an article for the year 1887 which had been taken from "The Herald" and written by County Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Shawhan, which read--"Twenty-six Counties (but the author believes Mr. Shawhan meant Townships) were represented by 172 pupils. These finals were divided into two courses--the higher course which was orthography, reading, penmanship, arithmetic, grammar, physiology and algebra and the second course which was the same examinations except the pupils took exams in geography and history versus physiology and algebra.

"The biggest (quoting verbatim for today one would say "highest") grades in orthography were one hundred made by Cora Pugh...." Then there was a comment on one girl's grade in penmanship from some township other than Mahomet with Mr. Shawhan's continuing remarks on how he as the Superintendent wanted to mark the paper one hundred in penmanship but was persuaded not to because one or two of the "k's" was out of proportion and the lines in one or two capitals might have been firmer. The highest grade in arithmetic was by Effie Freeman of Ogden.

It was in this article that there was a long discussion on the job done by the country school teachers and they also questioned the ability of the country child versus the town child; this was quoted in the chapter on the country schools.

Pupils who took the examination January 16, 1888, from Mahomet Township for the years 1887-1888 were:

Hattie Taylor	age 17	Brick School	Average 82 5/7	rank 10
Ida Taylor	age 15	Brick School	Average 67 4/7	rank 17
Ida Wright	age 16	Cherry Grove	Average 78 4/7	rank 11
Charles Henness	age 19	Union School	Average 60 4/7	rank 19
Nathan Wiles	age 16	Mahomet Town	Average 88 3/7	rank 1

The total from Mahomet Township who took the exam was ten. There were no pupils listed from the Martin country school. This same year they recorded that five were admitted to the County Exam from Champaign, meeting at night.

For the years 1888-1889, the examination was given February 1, 1889, with four boys and nine girls taking the examination from



Mahomet town with the teacher being S. A. Harrison and two pupils took the exam from Cherry Grove Country School--Jennie Johnston and Ida Wright--where D. C. Morehouse was the teacher.

In 1889-1890 the examination was given January 31, 1890 with Miss Johnson as the teacher of the Grammar Grade at Mahomet and two of the recognized pupils were Charles Dale, age 16, whose average was 80 1/7, ranking one and Frank Stauduhar, age 14, averaging 80, and ranking two. Many other names were given but not recognized by the author. For the Grade B exam, with evidently the same teacher and for the same year, Fannie Davis, age 12, was listed whose average was 73 1/7, ranking three. (The author wonders if Grade B was seventh graders and maybe the Grade A was eighth graders.)

At the same time the exam was given in Newcomb Township where one of the persons taking the exam was Effie Wright, age 16, from the Wright School, carrying an average of 81 5/7 and ranking 4. Then on March 14, 1890. a second exam was given with the same two men listed from Mahomet Grade--Frank Stauduhar, age 14, average 66 1/7, ranking 92; and Charles Dale, age 17, average 62 3/7, ranking 107; and from Newcomb Township was listed Effie Wright, age 16, average 66 1/7, ranking 92; and two other persons from Newcomb Township were Clyde Gulick and Ernest Knott. It appears that just so many were permitted to go on and take the second examination, dependent upon their grades from the first exam. All of the persons who took the exams from each year are not listed in this book but just some of those whose names are familiar to Mahomet persons today.

The first time in the Director's Book of Mahomet Grade School where mention is made of the County Exams was under date of April, 1895, when the Board ordered the Clerk to instruct the Principal of the school not to allow any pupil to graduate unless he passed the required examination.

In the Record of Teachers' Book at the Courthouse we find Mr. Shawhan's notice of the County Examinations from which excerpts were taken--

January 14, 1897--"Seeing the results of the Central Examination last year were better than those of previous years I feel sure that nothing will be lost by following the same plan this year. They will be held in the usual places, February 26, 1897, as follows: Mahomet, etc.....We had 1310 in the Centrals last year....Every pupil in the seventh and eighth grades should go although some studies are not up good....At any rate, then you will feel more like a scholar than if you stay at home....It is not to beat someone else or another school but to help ourselves in educating ourselves. It shows us something about our education we did not know before....Those who do their work well are able to go on into high school and colleges, to attend the Institutes and become good teachers. Success comes to those who work.... Exams will be given in Orthography or Spelling (words to be spelled from the Seventh Grade History); Reading from the Constitution or Declaration; Penmanship; Arithmetic (Fifth, Sixth, Seventh or Eighth years); Grammar (Eighth year); Geography (Eighth year); History (Seventh year); Elementary Physiology; Stowell's "A Healthy Body" (though some other will do fairly well), and Drawing (the drawing will be graded on a drawing executed at home or at school). Every pupil who has read the "Life of Benjamin Franklin" written by himself is to be given a grade of one hundred on this topic and have it added with his other grades in making up his average.

"The Exam in the Higher Course: Orthography; Reading; Penmanship; Drawing; General History; Second Year Zoology; Physics; Algebra; and Eighth grade Arithmetic may be substituted for Algebra. Book to be read: Morgan's Patriotic Citizenship. Everyone who has read this is to be given a grade of one hundred, etc....

"Take blotters, penholders, pens, scratch paper and pencils. Ink should be supplied by the school where the exam is being taken....Every child brings to the exam a record of the number of days his school has been in session and the number of days he attended....Exam begins at 9:30A.M.... All disputed points are to be referred to the County Superintendent.... The teachers will organize and elect a president to take charge of the exams and appoint persons to grade the papers....Bragging and boasting of what your students can do is not in good taste....The order in which the exams should be given....Grades are given on answers given and not the supposed ability of the child. Teachers don't walk about....Let no quarrels be indulged in.... Final Exams--High School, Urbana, March 19, 1897, because the Central Illinois Teachers Association holds its meeting in Galesburg on March 26. The exams will be followed by a social hour and tea for teachers and students.

G. R. Shawhan  
County Superintendent "

Adelia Renfrew Stearns writes on the school system in 1899, "George R. Shawhan, an elected official, was County Superintendent, an office he assumed after T. R. Leal. Shawhan's greatest contribution was instituting a graduation system for country eighth grade students. The lethargy of former years transformed into honest vieing within each school and neighboring schools--contests, exams, spelling bees, discussions in history about the Civil War, reconstruction days, the constitution and certain amendments. All of this resulted in a special day in the spring of each year, about the middle of March, for the final County examination day which was held in Urbana each year. Passing this test entitled students to enter the Urbana High School in the following September or they could enter in their home town if the town had a high school. Shawhan had noticed many scholarly and bright country boys and girls who deserved a chance to go on to high school rather than quit at the eighth grade level.

"In Martin School, where I was teaching at the time, the oldest pupil, Charles Purnell, who was nearly fifteen years of age, ranked one, and that meant the highest average among 1800 pupils in the County Final Examinations in March. I counted it a signal victory for my first year of teaching. Mr. Shawhan made a special trip to our school to personally congratulate Charles and told him that day what we read in the Urbana Courier Newspaper at that time, that he had a good speaking voice, his oral reading at County Exam was not only good, clear and confident, but unusual for one of his age. He further said, 'a winner is always unusual in that one's personality, natural aptitude for learning, honest viewing and sticking to it, sets one apart to win and to lead.' "

In that the pupil to whom Mrs. Stearns referred was the father of the author, I felt compelled to verify the authenticity of 1800 persons having taken the exam for that seemed a large number for that period of time and thought that perhaps Mrs. Stearns had made a misstatement in her letter. However, when talking with Mr. Harshbarger at the County Superintendent of School's office to inquire as to what the number of persons might be who had taken the exam from the county I was told that not only did they have the number recorded but they did have the books on file which listed the names of all pupils who had taken the exams from the different townships, their ages, the grades made on the subjects, their averages and rank. The author did check and found that all townships were listed--Champaign, Hensley, Condit, Birch, Newcomb, Scott, Colfax and Sadorus, but for some unknown reason it did not list Mahomet Township separately, but the full recording on Mr. Purnell's examination was found.

Charles S. Purnell, age 15, ranked one, with an average of 86 6/11 as a pupil from Martin School with Miss Adelia Renfrew as the teacher. The subjects taken and the grades made in each for this year were as follows:

1899-1900		1900-1901	
Orthography	88	Orthography	96
Reading	96	Reading	98
Penmanship	99	Penmanship	95
Drawing	85	Drawing	80
Arithmetic	70	Music	86
Grammar	76	Illinois	100
Geography	90	Agriculture	84
History	68	Composition	85
Physiology	80	Algebra	85
Music	100	Zoology	82
Cuba	100	Physics	73
		Geographical	
		History	83

Teacher:	Adelia Renfrew	N.E. Wiles
Pupil's Age:	15	16
Average:	86 6/11	87 3/13
Days in School:-		92
Days attended: -		68
Rank:	1	3

For the second listing of grades and examination, the subjects would be classified as high school subjects. The days attended by Mr. Purnell were only about two thirds of the time which was probably due to the fact that most of the older boys were not in school when it was necessary for them to work in the fields in either the spring or the fall of the year. Other pupils from the Martin School who took the examination in 1900-1901 were Lura Abbott Harper and Clayton Johnson.

Mrs. Laura Rayburn Purnell, Mother of the author, relates her experiences of taking the final examination for the first time under her teacher for the eighth grade, Clara Dunaway. The pupils had been reviewed for weeks and weeks, in preparation for the final examinations, but no one had told "Laura" that she should take the examination or that she had to take the exam and being near the end of a large family, her parents did not express themselves

on the subject, so no reviewing was done. On the night before the examination, at the suggestion of the teacher, it was decided that she should take the exam so all books were carried home to be reviewed that night. Of course, it was late to be reviewing and Mrs. Purnell, having been brought up in a Christian home, decided, no doubt, that she could accomplish more through prayer than by hard work so she told of seating herself on the long stairway with its walnut bannister and praying fervently that the Lord would see fit to let her pass but Mrs. Purnell's comment is, "I learned at this early date that prayer without work availeth nothing and that the Lord helps only those who help themselves, for I did no better on the exam than I should have done without having reviewed that last night."

Other well-known names of persons taking the exam in 1899-1900 from the Mahomet Grammar School were Bertie Herriott, Bessie Rea and Tot Carson. For the same years, the recognized names for high school pupils taking the examinations were Jay Davis, Joe Stidham, Lissa Stidham and Paul Lindsey. Additional subjects upon which they were examined in high school were General History, Algebra, Bookkeeping, Physics and Botany.

Below you will find a copy of the Final Examination questions that were administered for the years 1923-1924 and 1924-1925 in the different subjects. These will bring back to you the memory of that famous exam you may have taken. Also below can be seen prints of some of the pictures which were used for the Drawing examination during these years.

April 19, 1924

Drawing--Make a drawing upon which you have worked this year that you can finish in 15 to 25 minutes.

Penmanship--

Physiology--Agriculture--Eighth Year (Take any five)

1. What are the uses of the skeleton? Describe the spinal column (Credits 10 each)
2. What is the best way to relieve fatigue? What is the value of hot and of cold baths in relieving fatigue? Explain the relation between habits and character. Explain the work that is done by the involuntary muscles. (Credits 5 each)
3. Describe the care that should be taken of the eyes in reading. Why is sleep necessary for the health of the nervous system? How does alcohol make a man temporarily insane? Explain what takes place in the ear when we hear a sound. (Credits 5 each)
4. Discuss methods of picking and storing apples. Why is it an advantage to propagate plants by cuttings instead of seeds? Explain the making of ice cream. Explain the cooking of food in a fireless cooker. (Credits 5 each)
5. Name two breeds of dairy cattle. Discuss the food of dairy cattle. Name two breeds of beef cattle. Discuss the food of beef cattle. Name two breeds of hogs. Discuss the care of hogs. Describe the draft horse. (Credits 5 each)
6. Explain the making of artificial ice. Explain the heating of a room with a jacketed stove (Credits 10 each)

Arithmetic--Seventh Year Take any five

1.  $41 \frac{2}{3} + 26 \frac{1}{2} + 35 \frac{3}{4} =$   $8 \frac{29}{32} - 5 \frac{3}{8} =$   
 $3 \frac{3}{4} \times 46 \frac{1}{8} =$   $61 \div 7 \frac{5}{8} =$  (Credits 5 each)
2. How many square yards of plastering are there in the walls and ceiling of a room 16 ft. by 20 ft. and 9 ft. high, allowing 14 sq. yd. for openings and baseboard (Credits 20)
3. If a building casts a shadow 75 ft. long when a post 6 ft. 2 in. high casts a shadow 12 ft. 6 in. long, how high is the building? (Credits 20)
4. A man's mincome is \$1650 a year and he spends \$693. What per cent of his income does he save?  
A bill of goods amounting to \$725 is allowed a discount of 15%. Find the net amount (Credits 10 each)
5. If a farmer sold a horse for 80% of its cost and received \$152 how much did the horse cost?  
A man sold some goods for \$192.50, making a profit of 10%. How much did the goods cost him? (Credits 10 each)
6. Find the interest on \$3562.50 for 3 years, 2 months, 5 days at  $5 \frac{1}{2} \%$  (Credits 20)
7. If you have the number of pupils in a school and the number in Grade V how do you find the per cent that are in Grade V (Credits 20)

Orthography

Part I--Twenty-five words to be written from dictation on front of paper

Part II--Questions, etc. to be written directly under the words. Take any 5.

Note--To analyze a word--1. Name its component parts--root, prefix, suffix, and give the literal meaning of each. 2. Combine these meanings into a definition, supplying words, if necessary to make the sense complete. Use the word in a sentence to illustrate its meaning.

1. According to the outline given above analyze a word containing one of the following prefixes: ex, ante, pro, auto (Credits 10)
2. According to the outline given above analyze a word containing one of the following suffixes: ence, fy, ory, ous (Credits 10)
3. According to the outline given above analyze a word containing one of the following root words: civ, dent, leg, pater (Credits 10)
4. Write the following words spelling each correctly--pity + ful; refer + ed; amuse + ment, change + ing, prefer + ence (Credits 2 each)
5. Use in sentences: desert, dessert, principal, principle, capital, capitol, cereal, serial, peer, pier (Credits 1 each)
6. Define each of the following words or use each word in a sentence: advise, stationery, minimum, antidote, aquarium (Credits 2 each)



Geography (Take any five)

1. Locate and state a geographical fact about each: Rio de Janerio, Cairo, Moscow, Gibraltar, Constantinople, Calcutta, Manilla, Valparaiso, Jerusalem, Melbourne (Credits 2 each)
2. Why is there such a heavy rainfall in northern South America? How did coffee get its name and from what and where is it produced? (Credits 10)
3. Why are beef and hides exported from Argentina to the United States? Where is nitrate produced and for what used? What causes the difference in temperature between eastern North America and Europe in the same latitude? What is the cause of trade winds? (Credits 5 each)
4. Name five of the new countries formed in Europe after the World War. What are the four drainage slopes of Europe? Why has western Europe a comparatively warm climate? Tell of manufacturing in Europe. (Credits 5)
5. Give four reasons why cotton manufacture is the largest industry of Great Britain. Locate Lyon and tell of its silk industry (Credits 10 each)
6. Account for the desert lands in Western Asia and Northern Africa. Explain the effect of the monsoons in (a) making northeastern India the wettest region of the world (b) making central and southern India the first country of the world in irrigation (Credits 10 each)
7. Why does China produce so much tea? Why has Japan made such wonderful progress during the past fifty years? Name the five countries that control most of Africa and tell why they want land there. What are the products and industries of Australia (Credits 5 each)

U. S. History--Eighth Year (Take any five)

1. Name the triumvirs and give a good statement concerning each. State the causes and the results of the Panic of 1837. What were the purposes of the early labor unions? What was done by the government and other political units to help build railroads (Credits 5 each)
2. Tell of the discovery of gold in California and the effect on the formation of the constitution. Compare the educational opportunities of girls with that of boys in the early schools. Tell of the immigration between 1850 and 1860 and what these immigrants added to America. Give the history and the effect of John Brown's raid (Credits 5 each)
3. Name five prominent leaders that appeared at the beginning of the Civil War. What were the results of firing on Fort Sumter? Give an account of Lee's last invasion of the North. What service was rendered by the Sanitary and Christian commissions? (Credits 5 each)
4. Describe the campaigns carried out by Sherman and Grant to bring the war to a close. What restrictions did Congress impose by the Reconstruction Act of 1867? Discuss the impeachment of President Johnson. Name three amendments applying to the negroes and state what each did for them. (Credits 5 each)
5. Where did the immigrants who came here after 1870 settle? State the objections to the Chinese which led to the exclusion act of 1881. What bad conditions were remedied by President Arthur's civil service act? Discuss the raising of cotton in relation to the prosperity of the south. (Credits 5 each)

6. Give the facts concerning four calamities caused by water or fire. Compare the attitude of the two great parties on the tariff about 1888. What were the causes of the Spanish-American War? What benefits came to Cuba as a result of American occupation? (Credits 5 each)
7. What aid has come to the people from the universities and technical schools? What is meant by "Big Business" and who were some of its early exponents? What new privileges have recently come to women in the way of chances for preparation and position? Tell something about Frances E. Willard. (Credits 5 each)

Practical English--Seventh Year (Take any five, including the first)

1. (a) Write an outline for a composition on one of the following subjects: The Game I Like Best; A Snowstorm; A Battle with the Indians; How the Chimes Rang; A True Story of A Cat; My Worst Accident; Earning, Saving and Investing Money. (b) Write a composition of not more than a page following the outline which you have made above. (Credits,--Outline 5, Composition 15)
2. Write correctly:  
the teacher said there will be no school Wednesday  
Salmon are caught in Alaska. With big nets.  
The snow was about a foot deep, it was a very hard storm  
You was in the room when I come  
I asked him to learn me to make one. (Credits 4 each)
3. Select the nouns, pronouns, adjectives (Do not include the word, the) and verbs in the following sentences. Arrange each group of words in a column. On our last holiday we strolled through the woods. We planned to eat lunch at the old log cabin. Some of the party had fallen behind so we sat down by the stream and waited. (Credits 20)
4. (a) Write the plural of the following words: sky, solo, echo, valley, society, family, donkey, dish, brush, hero. (b) Copy the following sentences exactly as they are printed: Lifting his hat politely he said, "Madam, take this seat." In an instant a dozen men offered to give their seats to the general, but he refused them all. "If there was no seat for this old lady, there is none for me." (Credits 10-10)
5. (A) Write the possessive of each of the following words: thief, mice, mouse, Charles, children, (b) Use each of the possessives which you have written in a sentence (c) Use each of the following in a sentence: it's, its, went, gone, did, done, broke, broken, saw, seen (Credits 1 each)
6. Copy the following sentences using the correct word in each. It was James and (I, me) who called to you. Helen said she saw you and (I, me) at the station. I was sure it was (they, them). It was (we, us,) who first found the cave. His coat was badly (torn, tore) and (wore, worn). I have (wrote, written) the invitations. When he was done he (set, sat) it up in the field. Have you ever (saw, seen) an aeroplane leaving the ground? There (was, were) six passengers. Soon it had (gone, went) out of sight. (Credits 2 each)
7. (a) In the following sentences name the pronouns and tell the person, number and gender of each: Frank and I have built a hut. Mary and Carl came over to help us. They helped us fill in the walls with leaves and pine needles. Carl's uncle gave him some old canvas for the roof. (b) Define adjective, predicate (Credits 15-5)

## TEACHERS--THE YEARS THEY TAUGHT AND THEIR LOCATIONS AS TO SCHOOLS

## TEACHERS PRIOR TO 1896 FOR THE COUNTRY SCHOOLS:

The following information was obtained, as a general rule, from some student or teacher of the school who listed the teachers from memory but oftentimes did not know the exact years of his teaching. Some of the information was obtained from the Courthouse Records and the Board of Directors' Books. The code for identifying the source of the information is given at the bottom of the page.

MARTIN SCHOOL	HARMONY (Bellinger) SCHOOL	SALEM (Brick) SCHOOL
Chas. Thomas-- 1887-1888 *	John Lindsey Johnson	*5 Joe Hawes *8 *5 Maggie Sidner *8
Mrs. Wade *1	Davis	*5 Olive Brown *8
Julia Ware *2	Anderson	*5 Byron Abbott *8
Nate Wiles *2	Nellie Bardwell	*5 Charley Thomas *8
Fred Bowditch *3	Madden	*5 M. O. Stover *8
John Montgomery*4	Miss Emig	*5 George Barnhart *8
H.J. Morehouse *4	Sadie Little Davis	*6 Mollie Thorne--1887-1888*
	Hattie Norton--1887-1888	* H. J. Morehouse *8
	D. Madden--1891-1892	*7 Mrs. Dora Cochran *8
	William Dillon--1892-1893	*7 Hattie Norton *8
	William Dillon--1893-1894	*7 D. C. Morehouse *8 -*9
	Johnnie Hissong--1894-1895	*7 Pearl Williamson *8
	Claude Stark--1895-1896	*7
	Harry Miller--1896-1898	*7
	Clara Dunaway--1898-1899	*7
	Bert Waters--1899-1900	*7
	Lavon Scoggins--1900-1901	*7
	Nate Wiles--1901-1902	*7
	Margaret Chester--1902-1903*7	

## Key:-

\*--Courthouse Record Book; \*1--Charlotte Busey says Mrs. Wade taught her father, Frank Purnell in his first grade; \*2--Adelia Renfrew Stearns; \*3--Lura Abbott Harper; \*4--Eliza Knox Davis; \*5--Mrs. Bertie Deadman Pfiester, age 91; \*6--Fanny Davis Rayburn; \*7--Joe Stidham; \*8--Maymee Taylor Clark; \*9--Roy Parrett, Mr. Morehouse being his teacher when he was in the first grade. Miss Emig who was listed by Mrs. Bertie Deadman Pfiester (\*5) was often referred to by the late Mrs. Louise Rayburn Taylor.

There is no record of early teachers at the Union (West) School prior to 1896 except Mr. Nathan Weston who was reported in the Courthouse Record Book as the teacher at Union in 1887-1888. Harris School was not organized prior to 1896.

## CHERRY GROVE SCHOOL

## WRIGHT SCHOOL

## HANNAH SCHOOL

Nancy Barker	*10	Anninas P. Johnson	*12	Martha Newell	*14
James Karr	*10	H.J. Morehouse	*12	Reuben Baner	*14
Mose Younglove	*10	Miss Anna Gouch	*12	Mr. Ingles	*14
Jenney Pittman	*10	Eva Mussen	*12	Miss Carson	*14
Edward Staples	*10	Cora Pugh--		Miss Hathaway	*14
Frank Osborne	*10	1887-1888 *	*12	Robert Wright	*14
Pat Alverson	*10	Dora Cochran	*12	Emma Judy	
John Mills Oakwood	*10	Nellie Cochran	*12	1887-1888*	
George Lytle	*10	Effie Scott	*12	Mr. Cheney	*14
Angy Canard *4 -	*10	Robert Wright	*12		
Alta Yexley	*10	Abbie Nebeker	*13		
Miss Ida Howard					
1887-1888	*				
Dave Morehouse	*11				
Miss Windette	*11				

## Key:-

\*10--Lee Dale who lists his teachers in the order in which they served, listing Miss Howard as his last teacher and the Courthouse Record shows her years of teaching as being 1887-1888; \*11--William Johnston; \*12--Mrs. Effie Wright Scott who also stated Nellie Cochran taught only summer term; \*13--Elbert Morrison; \*14--the theme of Joe Scott (Mr. Cheney is listed as the teacher of the school two miles north of Middletown, back in the woods, per Mrs. Wright in this theme which school may be what was known later as the Hannah School.)

## NORTH SCHOOL

## OAK GROVE SCHOOL

Minnie Crawford	*15	Bill Jones	*17
Ollie Crawford	*15	Belle Bartholow	*17
Harry Miller *15-	*16	Ernest Knott	*17
Cora Parsons	*15	Zaye Williamson	*17
Stella Bushee	*15	Nate Wiles	*17
Maud Collins	*15	George Purcell	*17
Miss Hubbard	*16	Bruce White	*17
Mary Baker	*15	Spencer White	*17
		Jeff Sowers	*17
		Lola Gulick	*17

## Key:-

\*15--Lydia Guy, formerly a student and now residing in Tuscola; \*16--the late Mrs. Mae Gleason Rayburn; \*17--Dan Crowley.

## TEACHERS PRIOR TO 1896 FOR THE MAHOMET TOWN SCHOOL

By Mr. S. C. Abbott's article in the Sucker State one learns of the earliest teachers in the Mahomet School--"In 1841 Isaac Parmeter was the teacher, then the teachers from 1833 to 1884 were Dr. Noble Adams, Joseph Lindsey, James Brown, Wm. Danner, James Brown, James H. Brown, George McClure, W. Stewart, R. P. Carson, A. W. Somers, W. Ingram, Jas. Crane, H. Phillips, E. Harwood, D. Cheney, J. Tinkham, M. Kelsey, Wm. Whitney, Rev. S. F. Gleason, J. V. Stone, Wm. Crayne, W. Howard, W. Lindsey, L. Stewart, Rev. E. French, Charles Baker and A. D. Sizer, who for fourteen years acted as Principal, ending May 1884."

From the early records of the Mahomet School Board, 1863-1881 and 1882-1896, were obtained the record of teachers who taught and their respective years. However, prior to 1879 the mention made of the teachers was seldom and the records from 1881 through 1895 are quite confusing. It was difficult to determine who was hired and for what years and what rooms they were teaching. Data was set up in the best order and as nearly correct as it seemed possible.

1869-1870--eight months of school. The only teachers' names mentioned were those of Miller and Sizer.

1870-1873--no names mentioned and no records found

1873-1874--the only teacher's name mentioned was a Miss Robb

1874-1879--no names were mentioned and no records were found

1879-1880--no record found as to the grades taught by the respective teachers but the record did indicate that the Principal, J. V. Slone, was to receive a salary of \$65 per month and that his Assistant for the intermediate grades would be May Carle for three months at a salary of \$25 per month. The other three teachers were B. D. Abbott, Charles Sinnock and Helen J. Carson whose salaries would be \$35 per month.

1880-1881--the school term was for eight months with the Principal being A.D. Sizer at a salary of \$75. per month; H.J. Morehouse taught the intermediate grades at \$37.50 per month and the other three teachers were Velma Skinner, Jessie Cuppernell and Helen Carson at a salary of \$37.50 each per month.

1881-1882--A.D. Sizer continued as Principal. The salaries remained the same for this year. Jessie Cuppernell refused her contract for this year so communicated with Fanny Stuart who was hired but did not accept. Perhaps Belle Carson taught for the months of September and October and was replaced by Jennie Pittman. H. J. Morehouse continued teaching the intermediate grades. Velma Skinner and Helen Carson continued with their respective grades; it is not known which lady taught primary and which one taught the second intermediate\* (or what would be called the third and fourth grades). Charles Heyland was janitor at a salary of \$15.

1882-1883--A vote was cast this year to determine the length of the school term. Seventy-eight votes were cast for seven months of school and twenty-eight votes were cast for an eight-month school term.

Teachers:--A.D. Sizer, Principal, \$75.; Jennie Pittman, Assistant to the

\* Mrs. Lon (Sarah) Spurgeon (born in 1870) reports her first teacher was Miss Helen Carson so probably Miss Skinner taught third and fourth grades. Mrs. Spurgeon thinks her second teacher was a Miss Wigton.



Principal, \$35; Annie Dunlop, Intermediate, \$35; Mary Flanigan, Assistant to Intermediate, \$35; Ella J. Cox, Primary, \$35; J. M. Offutt as Janitor at \$13.00 per month and fifty cents per cord for sawing wood.

1883-1884--The teachers for this year are the same as were the salaries except for a five-dollar increase (\$40) for Flanigan and Dunlop.

1884-1885--H. J. Morehouse hired September 13, 1884 at \$45. per month to replace Jennie Pittman. There is confusion here as to just who the teachers were for the next two years. Mr. Abbott's article states that A.D.Sizer's last year was May 1884. The Board minutes read that Sizer was replaced by J.H. Howerth. From the Minutes of the Board it would seem that Howerth's first year was 1885-1886. Perhaps Sizer continued for the year 1884-1885 as did the other teachers. Mrs. E. J. Baumgardner was mentioned as the teacher for the primary grades but it is not known if the position was just offered to her or if she did teach for this year.

1885-1886--Mary Flanigan was to be offered the principalship and if she refused (as she did) it was to be offered to H. J. Morehouse who also refused so J. W. Howerth was hired as Principal and his wife, Cora, as teacher for the primary grades at a salary for the two of \$125. Mary Flanigan continued as a teacher and the other teachers were J. M. Oakwood at \$46.875 per month and Dora Cochran at \$40. Nov. 4, 1885--Clerk of Board requested to correspond with Mattie Wigton to apply for Grammar Department.\*\*

1886-1887--J. W. Howerth, Principal, \$85; J. W. Oakwood, \$46.87; Cora O. Howerth, \$40.; Mary E. Flanigan, \$45.; and Dora Cochran, \$40.

1887-1888--Principal, W. E. Lindsey, \$70.; Other teachers--Lulu Parks, Marjorie Mott, Mary Flanigan and Dora Cochran at \$45. each. Oakwood had been offered the Principalship and Lottie Switzer (a long-time teacher in our Champaign schools and one for whom one of the grade schools was later named) was offered a position in the Grammar room but both declined.

\* 1888-1889--S. A. Harrison, Principal, \$75; Lulu Parks, Grammar, \$45; Marjorie Mott, Intermediate, \$45; Miss Stewart, First Intermediate, \$40. and Mrs. Barber, Primary, \$40.

1889-1890--W. H. Rusk, Principal and teacher of the high school, \$70.; Jennie Johnston, Grammar Department, \$45; Rosa McBee, Second Intermediate, \$40; Ida Purcell, First Intermediate, \$40; P. M. Wood, Primary, \$40. This was the year that Mr. Rusk was out of school for a long period of time because of illness in his family--(diphtheria)--so Mr. C. W. McNealey was asked to teach in his absence.

1890-91--W. H. Rusk, Principal; D. C. Morehouse, Grammar; Mrs. Jennie Pittman McNealey, First Intermediate; Miss Mary Slocum, Second Intermediate and Miss Pauline Wood, Primary.

1891-1892--W. H. Rusk, Principal, \$80; D. C. Morehouse, Grammar, \$45; Dora Cochran, Second Intermediate, \$40; Nellie Cochran, First Intermediate, \$40; and P. M. Wood, Primary, \$40.

1892-1893--Found no list of the teachers for this year but they were probably the same as for the preceding year. Mr. Charles Dale graduated this year and commented that the Principal was W. H. Rusk.

1893-1894--W. H. Rusk, Principal, \$80 for the school term of seven months; Dora Cochran, Grammar, \$45, replaced by H. J. Morehouse at \$50.; Hattie Cogshell, First Intermediate, \$40; Emma McWade, Primary, \$40; and Carrie Bodine, teacher of Second Intermediate at \$40.

\* Sylva Morehouse Benson records her Primary Teacher in '88 as being a Miss Barber. \*\* Sarah Spurgeon lists a Miss Wigton as her teacher.

1894-1895--Principal, Bowditch at \$60; H. J. Morehouse, Grammar Department, \$45; Miss Zay Williamson, Second Intermediate, \$35; Miss Jennie Johnston, First Intermediate, \$35; and Miss Vina Cummings, Primary, \$35. Mrs. Fanny Davis Rayburn, a graduate in 1895, told of the graduates of this year calling on Mr. Bowditch in 1920 which was twenty-five years after their graduation. Mr. Bowditch was living in Champaign in 1920.

1895-1896--No list was found of the teachers for this year but they were probably the same as those for the preceding year.

1896-1897--Principal, C. A. Pricer, \$70; F. L. Maxey, \$45; H.J. Morehouse, \$45; Jennie Johnston, \$35; and Myrta Morehouse, teacher of the Primary, \$35. The school term was for nine months.

TEACHERS IN THE MAHOMET TOWN SCHOOL (Grade and High School)--1896-1910  
(Salaries given occasionally)

Years Taught	Principal	Extra High School Teacher	Grammar	Intermediate 5th & 6th	Intermediate 3rd & 4th	Primary
* 1896-97	C.A. Pricer	\$70	H.J. Morehouse	\$45 T.S. Maxey	\$45 Jennie Johnston	\$35 Myrta Morehouse
1897-98	C.A. Pricer	70	H.J. Morehouse	45 N.E. Wiles	37.50 Jennie Johnston	35 Myrta Morehouse
*1 1898-99	C.A. Pricer	70	H.J. Morehouse	45 N.E. Wiles	40 Bertie Campbell	35 Myrta Morehouse
*2 1899-00	C.A. Pricer		W.H. Cheney	N.E. Wiles	Bertie Campbell	Myrta Morehouse
*3 1900-01	H.A. Davis		Della Porter	Hattie R. Davis	Florence Anderson	Mrs. H.A. Davis
*4 1901-02	H.A. Davis		Bertha Billings	Adelia Renfrew	Florence Anderson	Mrs. H.A. Davis
*5 1902-03	J.A. Stewart	75	Nathan Wiles	45 Zaye Williamson	Florence Anderson	Mrs. A. Stewart
1903-04	J.A. Stewart		N.E. Wiles	Zaye Williamson	Florence Anderson	Abline N. Stewart
*6 1904-05	P.H. Hellyer	80	Roll D. Johnson	Audie Foster	45 Gertrude Rowe	Mrs. Olive Wright
*7 1905-06	P.H. Hellyer		Roll D. Johnson	Elizabeth Perry	Gertrude Rowe	Mrs. Olive Wright
*8 1906-07	P.H. Hellyer		Roll D. Johnson	Viana McCown	Grace Lindsey	Rosalie Stettbacher
1907-08	R.A. Richter		Viana McCown	Mrs. Bertha Ritchie	Grace Lindsey	Rosalie Stettbacher
*9 1908-09	W.C. Hayward	100	Mathelda Voss	Tina Miller	Ella Herriott	Rosalie Stettbacher
*10 1909-10	W.C. Hayward	105	Jennie Pearce	Thos. O. Litton	Ella Herriott	Rosalie Stettbacher

School was for eight months. Mr. Pricer and Mr. Maxey were listed as teachers from Normal School

Enrollment was 165; 75 pupils read 56 volumes (12,350 pages); 41 taking Central Exam; graded in Manners and Morals; also graded in Amer. N's and Sto. of Eng. Lottie Switzer was listed this year as Principal of Champaign High School and Mr. Bowditch (an early Mahomet teacher) was listed as one of the Urbana teachers.

\*2 Enrollment was 166.

\*3 Della Porter was listed as Grammar School Principal so no doubt but that H.A. Davis would be the high school principal. Mrs. H.A. Davis not only taught the first and second grades but also the kindergarten.

\*4 H.A. Davis taught eighth grade along with his principal's duties. Bertha Billings taught seventh grade along with her principal's duties for the grammar school.

\*5 Nathan Wiles taught seventh and eighth grades so probably Stewart was teaching high school subjects and acting as principal. George W. Miller was Clerk of the School Board at this time.

\*6 Hellyer is listed as high school teacher and Johnson as teacher of the seventh and eighth grades.

\*7 School burned May 1906.

\*8 Because the school had burned, eighth grade was held in Abbott's Hall and the high school pupils met in the Odd Fellow's Hall, etc. The pupils and teachers moved into the new building in the Spring of 1907.

\*9 First time to have two high school teachers.

\*10 School held for eight and one-half months.

TEACHERS IN THE MAHOMET TOWN SCHOOL (Grade and High School)--1910-1920

Years	Principal	High School	Grammar Room	Intermediate	Inter. 3 & 4	Primary
* 1910-11	Wm. C. Hayward	Jane E. Pierce	Thos. O. Litton	Tina Miller	Ethel Wright	Ella Herriott
*1 1911-12	T.J. Stickrod	Jane Pierce rep. by Marie Wallin	Florence Corrick	Elsie M. Wilson	Ethel Wright	Ella Herriott
*2 1912-13	L.B. White	Hilda Prag	O.F. Gulick	Elsie Wilson rep. by R.Stettbacher	Jane Phillips	Ella Herriott
1913-14	Lewis Walker	Hilda Prag	O.F. Gulick	Zay Williamson	Bernice Flagg	Ruth Purnell
*3 1914-15	Lewis Walker	Hilda Prag	Russell Hyde	Zay Williamson	Bernice Flagg	Ruth Purnell
1915-16	C.P. Bauman	Vera Colbert	Leah Kraft	Zay Williamson	Bernice Flagg	Ruth Bishop
1916-17	C.P. Bauman(Supt.)	W.D. Madden (Prin.)	Harriet Warbritton	Zay Williamson	Bernice Flagg	Ida Hamilton
*4 1917-18	C.P. Bauman	Lisette McHarry(Asst.) J.W.Armstrong rep. by Lena Corzine	Harriet Warbritton	Mabelle Walker	Amy C. Abbott	Ida Hamilton
*5 1918-19	J.F. Dodson\$1300	Paule E.Sollars Ruth Pricer(Prin.)\$95	Harriet Warbritton	Zay Williamson	Amy C. Abbott \$65	Ida Hamilton
*6 1919-20	J.F. Dodson	Alma Kenworth(Asst)\$85 Ruth Pricer Ruth Caldwell	\$75 Anna Fitzsimmons	\$75 Zay Williamson	Beatrice Heylin	Ethel Sears
* 1920-21						
<p>Mahomet, Rantoul, Tolono and Homer were the only schools in the County besides Champaign and Urbana with more than four rooms. Total number of teachers in the County was 403 with 198 in one-room schools and 205 in village and city schools. Eighty per cent of the town teachers (164) were women and twenty per cent (41) were men. The total women teachers in the County was 345 and total men was 58. The Principal of the high school also taught science and math. The Asst. Principal taught history and language in the high school (probably first year for teaching language). C.A.Pricer, former Principal, is Township Treasurer.</p>						
*1 1921-22						
*2 1922-23						
*3 1923-24						
*4 1924-25						
*5 1925-26						
<p>J.Pierce replaced second semester by M. Wallin. Ethel Wright resigned 2/23/12 to get married and when married you were not permitted to continue teaching. Directors were Black, Warner and Hoyt. Elsie Wilson taught three months, got married and replaced by Stettbacher. Enrollment of pupils in County--11,086. School for eight months.H.L.Andrews taught music but doesn't say how much or if teaching other subjects. Lena Corzine replaced by Armstrong 2/3/18.</p>						
*6 1926-27						
<p>School for 8 1/2 months with the Supt. teaching science and math, the Prin. teaching English, Latin and Algebra I and the Asst. Prin. teaching history and economics. Recognized two-year high schools in the County are Foolsland, Ludlow, Ogden, Penfield and Gifford. Recognized three-year high schools are St. Joseph, Tolono, Sidney and Philo. Recognized four-year high schools were Mahomet, Fisher, Homer, Rantoul and Longview. Mrs.P.S.Replogle, Probation Off. Even at this early date they had special teachers for music, art and manual training for both grammar and high schools in the city schools of Champaign and a teacher for the slow pupils and the super grammar pupils.</p>						

# TEACHERS IN THE MAHOMET TOWN GRADE SCHOOL--1920-1935

Years	Principal	Grammar Room	Fifth & Sixth	Third & Fourth	Primary Room	Janitor
* 1920-21	E.M. Deem	Anna Fitzsimmons	\$115 Lila Drennan	\$100 Minnie Pike	\$85 Olive McNeill	\$100Dad Heavins
1921-22	E.M. Deem	Anna Fitzsimmons	Lila Drennan	Minnie Pike	Olive McNeill	
*1 1922-23	L.V. Spriggs	Lila Drennan	Wilma Lindsey	Minnie Pike rep. by Elsie Davis	Olive McNeill	
Years	Prin.& 7th & 8th	Fifth & Sixth	Third & Fourth	First & Second	Music	
1923-24	E.E. Garver	Gladys Hinton	Edna Hoit	Olive McNeill		
1924-25	E.E. Garver	Gladys Hinton	Edna Hoit	Olive McNeill		
1925-26	Edna Sloan	Gladys Hinton	Edna B. Hoit	Olive McNeill		
*2 1926-27	Edna Sloan rep. by Rolland Allen	Gladys Hinton rep. by Mrs. Helen S. Truitt	Edna B. Hoit	Olive McNeill		
*3 1927-28	H. R. Sparks	\$1350 Alice Hinton	Edna B. Hoit	\$900 Olive McNeill	\$990 Genevieve Richardson	\$990
1928-29	H. R. Sparks	Blanche Gaskins	Ruth Clapper	Olive McNeill	Mary Hartley Wells	
*4 1929-30	H. R. Sparks	Blanche Gaskins	Ruth Clapper	Olive McNeill	Jane Douglas	
1930-31	H. R. Sparks	Ruth Mellor	Ruth Clapper	Olive McNeill	Jane Douglas	
*5 1931-32	H. R. Sparks	Louise G. Purnell	Ruth Clapper	Olive McNeill	Louise G. Purnell	
1932-33	Harold Bennett	\$122 Louise G. Purnell	Ruth Clapper	Olive McNeill	Louise G. Purnell	
*6 1933-34	Harold Bennett	\$110 Louise G. Purnell	Lulu Buker	\$80 Olive McNeill	Louise G. Purnell	
1934-35	Harold A. Bennett	Louise G. Purnell	Lulu Buker	Olive McNeill	Louise G. Purnell	
* 1920-21	Deem was Principal for both high and grade schools, doing no teaching at the grade school, for the years 1920-21 and 1921-22. The Board members were Roy Lindsey, Charles Irle and Fred Daniel.					
*1 1921-22	L. V. Spriggs is a separate Principal for the grade school and taught eighth grade with Lila Drennan teaching only the seventh grade.. Minnie Pike taught until April 23 and replaced by Elsie Davis. School was for nine months.					
*2 1922-23	Edna Sloan was replaced by Rolland Allen 3/1/27 and Gladys Hinton was replaced by Helen Truitt 1/24/27.					
*3 1923-24	Genevieve Richardson taught music in all grades and the second grade with Mrs. McNeill teaching only first grade.					
*4 1924-25	Perhaps Jane Douglas taught other subjects but the book of teachers did not specify if she taught other work					
*5 1925-26	Louise G. Purnell not only taught the fifth and sixth grades but also the music in all of the grades.					
*6 1926-27	The depression is with us so the teachers' salaries were all lowered and the school term was cut to one of eight months.					



TEACHERS IN THE MAHOMET TOWN GRADE SCHOOL--1935-1948

Years	Prin. & 7th & 8th	Fifth & Sixth	Third & Fourth	First & Second	Music, Art, Penmanship				
1935-36	V.C. Kokensparger	Louise G. Purnell	Lulu Buker	Olive McNeill	Louise G. Purnell				
1936-37	V.C. Kokensparger	Louise G. Purnell	\$85 Lulu Buker	Olive McNeill	Ruth K. Martin				
1937-38	V.C. Kokensparger	Louise G. Purnell	\$90 Lulu Buker	Olive McNeill	Helen Turner				
1938-39	V.C. Kokensparger	\$140Louise G. Purnell	\$100 Lulu Buker	Olive McNeill	Helen Turner				
1939-40	V.C. Kokensparger	Jennie C. Manus	Lulu Buker	Olive McNeill	Helen Turner				
1940-41	V.C. Kokensparger	\$140Jennie C. Manus	\$100 Lulu Buker	\$100 Olive B. McNeill	\$100Helen Turner				
Years	Principal & 8th	Seventh	Sixth	Fifth	Fourth	Third	Second	First	
* 1941-42	V.Kokensparger	J.Manus	Lulu Buker	E.Thompson	T. Guynn	Mary Anderson	Mildred Gregory	Patricia Devine	
1942-43	V.Kokensparger	J.Manus	Lulu Buker	J. King	T. Guynn	Mary Anderson	Geraldine Hickie	Mary Cath. Buck	
	\$155	\$125	\$121	\$110	\$110	\$110	\$100	\$100	
*1 1943-44	Lulu Buker	\$170 J.Stevenson	E.McPherson	Mary Patton	T. Guynn	Dorothea Hazen	Geraldine Hickie	Mary Cath. Buck	
Years	Principal & 7th and 8th	grades	Fifth & Sixth	grades	Third & Fourth	grades	First and Second	grades	
*2 1944-45	Lulu Buker	Theresa Guynn rep.by Zona Samuelson	Geraldine Hickie	Mrs. Mary Annin					
		Dorothea Hazen							
1945-46	Lulu Buker	Zona Samuelson	Mrs. Ruth Woodruff	Mrs. Ruth McClarey					
Years	Prin. & 8th	Seventh	Sixth	Fifth	Fourth	Third	Second	First	Music
1946-47	Lulu Buker	Z.Samuelson	Gladys Clapper taught 5th & 6th	Marg.Sloan	E.Henniger	R.McClarey	A.McCooney	Marian Moon	
*3 1947-48	Lloyde Dees \$233.33	Z.Samuelson	L.Buker	G.Clapper	Alice Lair	Eva.Knott	E.Henniger	Edna Staggs	Anne Cooney
		\$190	\$190						
*	This was the first year they tried to have one teacher for each of the grades but this arrangement did not last long.								
	Mildred Gregory also taught music.								
*1	Each teacher was given a twenty dollar bonus at the end of the year.								
*2	Theresa Guynn taught six months and was replaced by Zona Samuelson. Dorothea Hazen taught fifth grade but it did not say if Zona Samuelson and Theresa Guynn taught sixth grade or what arrangement was made here. It could be they were teaching part of the seventh grade subjects and thus relieving the principal of some of her duties.								
*3	Geraldine Hickie worked with a handicapped child this year. Doris Miner was listed as one of the teachers but it did not say if she substituted or helped with teaching music or what. Lloyd Dees taught seventh grade and Zona Samuelson taught eighth grade.								

TEACHERS IN THE COUNTRY SCHOOLS 1896-1948

Years Taught	Martin School Old Dist. No. 4 New Dist. No. 30	Harmony School (Bellinger) Old Dist. No. 1 New Dist. No. 28	Salem School (Little Brick) Old Dist. No. 3 New Dist. No. 31
1896-97	Lizzie Collier	Harry Miller 8 months--\$45	Maymee A. Taylor 6 months--\$40 Clerk--George Parrett
* 1897-98	Harry B. Boyer 8 months--\$35 Clerk--W.Stearns Begin date--9/14 Enrollment--23	Harry Miller til May 6--\$45 Clerk--J. Stidham Enrollment--18	Lillie McDaniels 6 months--\$35 Begin date--9/6
1898-99	H. B. Boyer 8 months--\$35 Clerk--J.B.Abbott Begin date--9/5 Enrollment--14	Clara Dunaway 8 months--\$35 Clerk--J.M. Herriott Begin date--9/5 Enrollment--20	Pearl Williamson
*1 1899-00	Adelia Renfrew Clerk--J.S.Park Enrollment--19	Bert Waters Clerk--J.Herriott Enrollment--10	Pearl Williamson Clerk--J.C.W. Pittman
*2 1900-01	N. E. Wiles --\$40	M.Lavon Scoggin	Maymee A. Taylor --\$40
*3 1901-02	Hattie Davis	Nathan E. Wiles Clerk--Wm.Herriott	H. S. Peck
*4 1902-03	Anna Mulvani --\$45 Clerk--J.B.Abbott	Margaret Chester --\$45	Lillie Zerbe Clerk--W.R. Barnhart

\* A detailed report was given for each of the schools but it was given here only for Harmony (other than the enrollment)--Average attendance out or their enrollment of 18 was 16; Library-G; Number of volumes-50; How obtained library volumes--Socials; Number of pupils reading--12; No. of volumes read--27; No. of pages read--2807; No. for Central--2. Then for "From County Library," "Music," and "Civ. Gov't." the report in each was a check mark; the report for "Drawing" and "Manners and Morals" was "G." A report was requested but none was made on "No. of Volumes from County Library" and "Lincoln." Other means of obtaining the volumes in the school libraries as reported by other schools were entertainments, subscriptions, and purchased by pupils.

\*1 This year was when reports were made on reading "Cuba."

\*2 Reports were made on the number of trees in the school yards, the number of trees planted and the number of trees they will plant.

\*3 Reports on whether enough shade in the school yards and also reporting on tree plantings. An article appeared that the Districts were given their present numbers by Supt. Shawhan and that now the Districts are numbered consecutively by the entire County whereas before they had been numbered consecutively by Townships--now new District numbers.

\*4 This marks the year that Harmony is no longer called Bellinger School.

# TEACHERS IN THE COUNTRY SCHOOLS 1896-1948

	Years Taught	Martin School	Harmony School	Salem School
*	1903-04	Elva G. Elwarner Clerk--J.B.Abbott	Estelle Gulick Clerk--R. G. Rayburn	Julius Hawbaker
*1	1904-05	Zona Elwarner \$50	Grant Burgner \$45	Lottie Hess \$42.50
	1905-06	Zona Elwarner	R. C. Dittman	Bessie Rea
	1906-07	Helen Sands	Grant Burgner	Lissa Stidham
	1907-08	N. E. Wiles *3	Grant Burgner rep. by Zaye Williamson	Zona Elwarner
	1908-09	Leone Lentz \$40	Daisy Smith \$45	Zona Elwarner \$55
	1909-10	Glenn Hunt	Daisy Smith	Pauline Osborne
	1910-11	Daisy Smith	Alta Caldwell	Merle Lindsey
*2	1911-12	Alta Caldwell	Kate Hazen	Amy Abbott
	1912-13	Julia Carson	Mary Hoit	Amy Abbott
	1913-14	Esther Green	Mary Hoit	Lorena Wylie
*3	1914-15	Carrie L. Rooth had rep. Stewart Miner	Hazel Bebout	Ferne Hoit
	1915-16	Ferne Dale	Ferne Hoit	Gladys McNeill
	1916-17	Amy C. Abbott	Ferne Hoit	Helen Purnell
	1917-18	Ferne Hood	Ferne Hoit	Helen Purnell
	1918-19	Marie Lindsey	Ferne Hoit	Marie Trinkle
	1919-20	Ferne Hood	Lenora Bensley rep. by Wilma Jones	Marie Trinkle
	1920-21	Ferne Hood	Elsie Davis	Stewart Miner
	1921-22	Ferne Hood	Elsie Davis	Gertrude Smith
	1922-23	Ferne Hood	Mabel Roberts	Gertrude Smith
	1923-24	Ferne Hood	Mabel Roberts rep. by Mrs. J. J. Miner	Verda M. McBride
*	During these earliest years Lottie Switzer (well-known in our community) was listed as the Principal of Champaign High School where many of our local boys and girls attended. Her salary was \$135 per month. Lillie McDaniel was a teacher in Champaign at \$50 per month; Fannie McDaniel was principal and teacher of the fourth grade at Willard School at \$55. Giving you this data makes it possible to compare the salaries of the teachers in our community with Champaign.			
*1	In this Record Book for Teachers was the year's program for the Citizens and Teachers Association which met quarterly.			
*2	The total number of teachers in the County was 403 with 198 being in the country schools. Ninety-two per cent of the country school teachers (181) were women while only eight per cent (17) were men. The term for country schools varied--eleven had school for six months; thirty for seven months; 154 for 8 months; and three for more than eight months. The highest salary paid a country school teacher was \$70 per month; the lowest paid was \$40.			
*3	Courthouse Records do not show Z. Williamson and S. Miner as teachers but pupils remember Mr. Miner teaching a few months, first part of year, and replaced by Miss Rooth and Mr. Burgner was replaced by "Miss Zaye"			

# TEACHERS IN THE COUNTRY SCHOOLS 1896-1948

Years Taught	Martin School	Harmony School	Salem School
1924-25	Isabelle Kirkpatrick	Helen F. Stickrod	Verda McBride
1925-26	Isabelle Kirkpatrick	Helen Stickrod Truitt	Alta Byrne
1926-27	Ferne Hood Carter	Ruth S. Rayburn	Mae Patient
1927-28	Jessie Taylor	Mabel A. Serwise	Ralph Foster
1928-29	Jessie Taylor	Mabel A. Serwise	Mary Bartlett
1929-30	Hazel Brown \$115	Fern A. Sparks \$110	Mae Roeglin
1930-31	Hazel Brown	Fern A. Sparks \$125	Mae Roeglin
1931-32	Hazel Brown	Fern A. Sparks	Mae Roeglin
1932-33	Hazel Brown \$90	Lois R. Davis \$100	Mae Roeglin
1933-34	Grace Gadburg \$70	Elsie M. Rayburn \$80	Kathrine Manuel \$60
1934-35	Geneva Blacker	Elsie M. Rayburn	Kathrine Manuel
1935-36	Geneva Blacker	Elsie M. Rayburn	Bessie Curzon
1936-37	Donald Miller	Elsie M. Rayburn	Bessie Curzon
1937-38	Donald Miller	Elsie M. Rayburn	Bessie Curzon
1938-39	Roy Amdor	Elsie M. Rayburn	Bessie Curzon
1939-40	Roy Amdor	Elsie M. Rayburn	Bessie Curzon
1940-41	Roy Amdor \$100	Elsie M. Rayburn \$110	Bessie Curzon \$75
1941-42	Roy Amdor	Elsie M. Rayburn	Bessie Curzon
1942-43	Sylvia Armstrong	Elsie Rayburn rep. by Bernice Davis 12/4/42 rep. by Anna Shell 1/4/43	H. R. Coulter
1943-44	Pearl Churchill	Faye B. Huston	Alma Bartlett School closed October 1, 1943-- lack of pupils
1944-45	Effie Gossard	Faye B. Huston	Closed
1945-46	Frances M. Whites	Anna Shell	Closed
1946-47	Mary M. Taylor	Closed	Closed
1947-48	Mary M. Taylor \$175	Closed	Closed
1948-49	Closed	Closed	Closed

# TEACHERS IN THE COUNTRY SCHOOLS 1896-1948

Years Taught	Cherry Grove (Dale School) Old Dist. No. 5 New Dist. No. 26	Union School (West) Old Dist. No. 6 New Dist. No. 27	Harris (Carter) Old Dist. No.-- New Dist. No.230
1896-97	Zaye Williamson 8 months--\$35	Luella Rayburn	
1897-98	Jessie Peddicord 8 months--\$35 Begin date--8/30 Enrollment--9	R.E. Lucas Enrollment--30	
1898-99	Jessie Peddicord 8 months--\$35 Begin date--9/5 Enrollment--25	R.E. Lucas Enrollment 38	
1899-00	Maude Lawhead Clerk--J.J. Hayward	R. E. Lucas	
1900-01	Maude Lawhead --\$40	R. E. Lucas \$50	
1901-02	Clara E. Renfrew	William Hayward	
*1 1902-03	Clara E. Renfrew Clerk--W.O. Dale	Hattie Huber	Hattie Huber
1903-04	Hazel Davis Clerk--W.O.Dale	Roy L. Grimes \$50 Clerk--Douglas Parnell	Maude Davis
1904-05	Rosalie Stettbacher --\$37.50	N. A. Wiles	Minnie W. Adams
1905-06	Rosalie Stettbacher	Jaspar Worthey	Mae Larry
1906-07	Ella Herriott \$40	N. J. Worthey	Ella Karr
1907-08	Ella Herriott	N. J. Worthey	Dennie Bailey
1908-09	Zay Williamson \$56	Ruth Purnell \$40	Minnie Adams
1909-10	Hazel Smith	Ruth Purnell	Effie Johnson
1910-11	Hazel Smith	Sue Carson	Effie Johnson
1911-12	Daisy Lester	Marie Lindsey	Belle Dale
1912-13	Daisy Lester	Belle Dale	Anna Beckett
1913-14	Jane Phillips	Zona Elwarner	Ruth Anderson
1914-15	Mary Hoit	Marie Lindsey	Ruth Anderson
1915-16	Mary Hoit	Marie Lindsey	Ruth Anderson
*2 1916-17	Gladys Clapper rep. by Elsie B. Davis	Nettie Flag	Lulu Dale
*1	First time that the Dale School was called Cherry Grove in the records. First year that we have a record of the Carter School. Hattie Huber is listed as the teacher at both the Union School and the Harris School ??		
*2	Gladys Clapper replaced by Elsie Davis 11/13/16--no teaching after married.		



# TEACHERS IN THE COUNTRY SCHOOLS 1896-1948

Years Taught	Cherry Grove School	Union School	Harris School
1917-18	Beatrice Shively	Nettie Flag	Anna Fitzsimmons
1918-19	None listed	Leta McIlvain	Anna Fitzsimmons
1919-20	Freda Pike	Minnie Pike	Gertrude Todd
1920-21	Marie Trinkle	N. J. Worthy	Wilma Yansey Jones
1921-22	Marie Trinkle	Zaye McCracken	Minnelle Edwards
1922-23	Edna Hoyt	Zaye McCracken	Rita Manuel
1923-24	Wilma Lindsey	Zaye McCracken	Echo Lawrence
1924-25	Ethel Rayburn	Zaye McCracken rep. by Ann Shell	Ferne H. Carter
1925-26	Eleanor Vale	Audie Lindsey	Ferne H. Carter
1926-27	Effie Gossard	Audie Lindsey	Mary Forrestal
1927-28	Effie Gossard	Hattie B. Davis	Wilbur Manual
1928-29	Effie Gossard	Hattie B. Davis	Mary Forrestal
1929-30	Mabel Serwise	Hattie B. Davis	Mrs. Honore Lykins
1930-31	Anna McNeely	Elsie Rayburn \$120	Mrs. Honore Lykins
1931-32	Pearl Dubson	Elsie Rayburn \$115	Mrs. Honore Lykins
1932-33	Pearl Dubson	Ethel L. Bell \$75	Mrs. Honore Lykins
1933-34	Gladys Clapper \$70	Ethel L. Bell \$75	Mrs. Ruth Carson \$80
1934-35	Gladys Clapper	Pearl Dubson	Mary Phillippe
1935-36	Gladys Clapper	Ruth Abbott	Mary Phillippe
1936-37	Gladys Clapper	Ruth Abbott	Gladys Ballett
1937-38	Gladys Clapper	Ruth Abbott	Elva Lake
1938-39	Gladys Clapper	Elva Lake	Dorothy Bash
1939-40	Gladys Clapper	Geraldine Herriott	Mary C. Beard
1940-41	Margaret Graham \$85	Gerladine Herriott	Esther N. Grote \$100
1941-42	Norma Kokensparger	Geraldine Hickie	Esther N. Grote
1942-43	Marian Henry Kelleps rep. by Edith Wegeng for 2 3/5 months	Arlene Robbins	Zona Samuelson
1943-44	No School	Arlene Robbins	Zona Samuelson
1944-45	No School	Mrs. Cherry Gamble rep. by Mrs. Mary Myers	Dorothy Bash
1945-46	No School	Mary O'Neill	Mrs. L. L. Norris
1946-47	Closed	Belle D. Pfiester	Mrs. Mary Jackson
1947-48	Closed	Closed	Closed
1948-49	Closed	Closed	Closed

# TEACHERS IN THE COUNTRY SCHOOLS 1896-1948

Years Taught	Wright Mahomet Township Old Dist. No. 3 New Dist. No. 32	Hannah Newcomb Town. Old Dist. No. 4 New Dist. No.	Oak Grove Newcomb Town. Old Dist. No. 8 New Dist. No. 34
1896-97	R. E. Lucas 8 months--\$50 Begin date--8/31	Nathan Wiles 8 months--\$40 Clerk--John Hinton Begin date--9/1	Rosa Haummerbaker 6 months--\$40 Begin date--9/7
1897-98	W. C. Knott 9 months Clerk--M. O. Stover Begin date--9/6 Enrollment--28	Effie Naylor Enrollment--29	T. J. Stickrod 8 months--\$33 Begin date--9/6 Enrollment--44
1898-99	Minnie J. Hallcock \$40 Enrollment--25	Effie Naylor Enrollment--29	Clyde Gulick
1899-00	Louis Hull	Lillie Zerbe	S. G. Pursell
1900-01	Louis Hull	Maggie Shaffer	S. G. Pursell
1901-02	F. L. Stonehouse	Gertrude Rowe	Geo.C.Ketchenan
1902-03	Mrs. H. A. Davis	Gertrude Rowe	S. G. Pursell
1903-04	Anna Mullvain	Helen Sands rep. by Bert Lester	Synthia Morehead
1904-05	Della Dolph	Bessie Wyant	Synthia Morehead
1905-06	Ella Herriott	Bessie Wyant	Synthia Morehead
* 1906-07	Mary E. Cresap	Lura Abbott	N. E. Wiles
* 1907-08	Lura Abbott	Willis Davis	Daisy Smith
1908-09	Rose Hazen	Mary Gulick rep. by Olive Wright	Edna Hazen
1909-10	Nettie G. McNeal rep.by Nathan Wiles	Ethel Wright	Edna Hazen
1910-11	Zella VanSchoyck	Ruth Purnell	Nellie Brash rep. by S.G.Pursell
1911-12	Edna B. Hazen	Daisy Trotter	S.G. Pursell
1912-13	Edna B. Hazen	Rose Gilmore	Stanley Spencer
1913-14	Ferne Hoit	Goldie Hannah	Edna B. Hazen
1914-15	Maurice W.Ocheltree	Ruth Beeby	Oliver Plummer
1915-16	Beatrice Foster	Ruth Beeby	Henrietta Zwofel
1916-17	Lois Layton rep. by E. E. Garver	Mrs. Elva Lake	Leone L.Renfrew rep. by Jessie Miller
1917-18	E. E. Garver	Orin Lester	L. B. White
1918-19	Lenora Bensley	Gertrude Phelps	Zella Camden

\* Lura Abbott reports, "I taught these two schools for the two years and then I went to Normal School to learn how to teach."

TEACHERS IN THE COUNTRY SCHOOLS 1896-1948

Years	Wright	Hannah	Oak Grove
1919-20	Doris McNeill	Fanny Shell	Lottie M. Hammel
1920-21	Effie Gossard	Fanny Shell	Jennie Porter
1921-22	Effie Gossard	Fanny Shell	Roberta Record
1922-23	Esther Kemp rep. by Mrs. Bernice Beck	Fanny Shell	Julian Taylor
1923-24	Fay Miller	Fanny Shell Jervis	Ruby Stanner
1924-25	Fay Miller	Fanny S. Jervis	Minnie Gresham
1925-26	Fay Miller	Fanny S. Jervis	Minnie Gresham
1926-27	O. F. Gulick	Fanny S. Jervis	Minnie Gresham
1927-28	O. F. Gulick	Marie Sitts	Violet Shepherd rep. by Harry Green
1928-29	Mabel L. Leischner	Marie Sitts	Harry Green
1929-30	Anna McNeely	Effie Gossard	Mervin Hinton
1930-31	Mrs. Mary Anderson	Effie Gossard	Mrs. Juna Hodgson
1931-32	O. F. Gulick	Effie Gossard	Lois R. Davis
1932-33	O. F. Gulick	Effie Gossard	Lyndon C. Banner
1933-34	Clair Kokensparger	Effie Gossard	Edna Hazen
1934-35	V. C. Kokensparger	Elizabeth Rohfling	Edna Hazen
1935-36	Chester A. Skeels	Elizabeth Rohfling	Edna Hazen
1936-37	Mrs. Mary D. Patton	Elizabeth Rohfling	Edna Hazen
1937-38	Mrs. Mary D. Patton	Elizabeth Rohfling	Edna Hazen
1938-39	Mrs. Mary D. Patton	Elizabeth R. Edwards	Edith Abernathie
1939-40	Mrs. Mary D. Patton	Ralph W. Roth	Edith Abernathie
1940-41	Mrs. Mary D. Patton	Ralph W. Roth	Edith Abernathie
1941-42	Mrs. Mary D. Patton	Lottie M. Hammel	Mrs. Louise Cook
1942-43	Mrs. Mary D. Patton	Lottie M. Hammel	Clelia F. Boise
1943-44	Mrs. Lois E. Parrett	Lottie M. Hammel	Mrs. Faye Resler
1944-45	Mrs. Faye Resler	Lottie M. Hammel	Mrs. Mary Nelson
1945-46	Mrs. Faye Resler	Mrs. Winifred Sizer	Lottie Hammel
1946-47	Mrs. Faye Resler	Ruth Woodruff	Marilyn Carter rep. by Lois Alexander
1947-48	Closed	Closed	Lena Graham
1948-49	Closed	Closed	Closed

# INFORMATION ON THE OTHER NEARBY COUNTRY SCHOOLS FROM 1896-1948

For some of the other schools in Newcomb, Scott and Hensley Townships during these years complete information is not given but a listing of some of the teachers and some few facts appear in the following paragraphs

## NEWCOMB TOWNSHIP

Years	Fairview School	Lester School	Walker School
1896-97	Dollie Reed \$37.50	Claude Dobbins \$37.50	Lulu G. Howard
1897-98	F.L. Stonehouse\$33 1/3 8 months, begin date 9/6		Sidney Stansell Enrollment--22
1898-99			W. L. Nash Enrollment--20
1908-09			Ethel Wright
1912-13	Ferne Dale	Sue Carson	
1913-14	Fred Kroner	Helen Purnell	
1919-20		Gladys Hinton	
1921-22	Bernice Hinton		
1922-23	Bernice Hinton		
1923-24	Bernice Hinton Davis		
1924-25	Mildred Leischner		
1925-26	Mabel Leischner		
1926-27	Mabel Leischner		
1935-36	Mary Taylor	Lucille Moore	Agnes Rayburn
1946-47	Closed		

## HENSLEY TOWNSHIP

Pioneer, District No. 2, was taught by H. J. Quayle in 1896-1897 and also 1897-1898. The enrollment in 1897-1898 was 24. Pioneer was taught by J. E. Armstrong at a salary of \$40. per month in 1898-99 and the enrollment was 25. Pioneer was taught by Ferne Dale in 1913-1914 and also in 1914-1915. The new District Number was 73.

Excelsior School was taught by John L. Hissong at a salary of \$50.00 with school beginning September 7 and lasting 8 months with C. J. Johnson as Clerk of the Board in 1896-1897. Excelsior was taught by Jessie M. Spalding in 1897-1898 and the enrollment was 13. Excelsior was taught by Ruth Pricer in 1912-1913. Excelsior was taught by Jessie Welch in 1922-1923.

## SCOTT TOWNSHIP

In 1896-1897, Minnie Crawford of Bondville was teaching the North School, District No. 7. She continued teaching 1897-1898, and 1898-1899. The enrollment in 1897-1898 was 27. The school closed in 1946-47.

In 1896-1897, W.E.O. Christie of Seymour was teaching the Koogler School, District No. 1. The school term started September 6 and continued for eight months. The teacher's salary was \$55 and the Clerk of the School Board was A. S. Scott. The same information held true for this school for 1897-1898 and also 1898-1899. The enrollment was 33. This school closed 1946-1947

In 1896-1897, Earl Middleton of Seymour was teaching the Whitehall School. The same information held true for this school for 1897-1898 and also 1898-1899. The enrollment was 33.

In 1946-1947 the Cresap School closed.



Belle Dale (Pfiester) and the Pupils of the White Hall School -- 1911



## TEACHERS IN THE MAHOMET COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL 1920-1948

This is the first year for the community high school and the students are being taught in a new and separate building. This School District is referred to as District 103. The total enrollment was 62 with school for eight and one-half months. A separate agriculture teacher was employed for this year. For the following years you can note when new and different subjects were added with the different combinations for the teachers.

### TEACHERS FOR THE MAHOMET COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL, YEARS THEY TAUGHT & SUBJECTS

- 1920-21--Principal, E.M. Deem at \$2750 with an additional \$250 for the summer, teaching physics, American history, civics and also acting as Superintendent of the grade school  
Glenna M. Wilkins, Assistant Principal and teacher of mathematics and history--\$1600  
Clara Bird, teacher of English and Latin at \$1600  
George Wickwire, teacher of agriculture and science at \$2200
- 1921-22--Principal, E. M. Deem with his Assistant being Glenna M. Wilkins  
Mollie Medcroft, teacher of Latin and English  
Clarence Ems, teacher of agriculture, science and coaching  
Eleanor Campbell, teacher of home economics and chemistry (this is the first year for the teaching of chemistry)  
School is for nine months this year.
- 1922-23--Principal, R. H. Perrott at \$2500, teaching history, science, civics and manual training (first time for the teaching of manual training)  
Frances Harris, teacher of English and history  
Nellie Bates, teacher of science, math and Latin  
Mable Stanford, teacher of chemistry and home economics  
Clarence Ems, teacher of agriculture, physics, geography, physiology and coaching
- 1923-24--Principal, J. J. Miner at \$2400, teaching math, history and science  
Frances Harris, teacher of English at \$1500  
Nellie Bates, teacher of physics, Latin and algebra at \$1400  
Mable Stanford, teacher of domestic science, history and civics at \$1400  
John Wear, teacher of agriculture, manual training, physics and athletics for twelve months at \$2300  
Ora Crowley, Janitor
- 1924-25--Principal, Curtis E. Ambrose  
Delia N. Brown, teacher of English  
Harold L. Hunter, teacher of mathematics and bookkeeping  
Edith V. Siffle, teacher of Latin and economics  
Lois Albertine Williams, teacher of home economics (Household Arts)  
John A. Wear, teacher of agriculture, manual training and coaching  
Ora Crowley, Janitor  
Public Speaking was also taught this year, perhaps by the teacher of English and Chemistry was probably taught by the teacher of home economics.

TEACHERS IN THE MAHOMET COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL 1920-1948 (Continued)

- 1925-26--Principal, Curtis E. Ambrose (also teacher of History & Civics)  
Delia N. Brown, teacher of English  
Harold L. Hunter, teacher of mathematics, bookkeeping and shorthand  
\* Edith V. Siffle, teacher of Latin, economics and typing  
Lois Albertine Williams, teacher of home economics  
C. N. Ayers, teacher of agriculture, manual training and coaching  
Ora Crowley, Janitor
- 1926-27--Principal, C. E. Ambrose  
Mary Leslie Robinson, teacher of English and music (first year for a separate music teacher)  
Mae McDill, teacher of mathematics and Latin  
Ruth Clausen, teacher of home economics  
Gretchen Smith, teacher of commercial subjects (first year for the employment of a special teacher for commercial subjects)  
Alfred Shultz, teacher of agriculture, manual training and coaching  
Ora Crowley, Janitor
- 1927-28--Principal, John K. Price at \$2400  
Velma Ogg, teacher of English at \$1500  
Mae McDill, teacher of mathematics and Latin  
Norma Hussey, teacher of home economics at \$1350  
Gretchen M. Smith, teacher of commercial subjects at \$1350  
Alfred Shultz, teacher of ag, manual training and coaching \$2350  
Ora Crowley, Janitor
- 1928-29--Principal, John K. Price  
Velma Ogg, teacher of English  
Mae McDill, teacher of mathematics and Latin  
Norma Hussey, teacher of home economics and chemistry  
Alice Madden, teacher of commercial subjects  
Mary Hartley Wells, teacher of music for both high school and grade school  
Alfred Shultz, teacher of ag, manual training and coaching until 10/25  
Robert Briggs, teacher of ag, manual training and coaching 10/26 on  
Ora Crowley, Janitor
- 1929-30--The teachers are exactly as they were the preceding year with the exception of Mary Hartley Wells who was replaced by W. M. Ewing who also taught band for the first time in the Mahomet school system
- 1930-31--Principal, John K. Price  
Lois M. Warnes, teacher of English  
Mae McDill, teacher of mathematics and Latin  
Norma Hussey, teacher of home economics and chemistry  
Adeline Stevenson, teacher of commercial subjects  
Roy P. Johnson, teacher of ag, manual training and coaching  
W. M. Ewing, teacher of band, salary being \$720  
Ora Crowley, Janitor
- \* The teaching requirements were not as rigid these years as today for Miss Siffle taught typing 1925-1926 and then enrolled in the fall at the Champaign Commercial College to learn the subject herself. The pupils did not realize she didn't know the subject when teaching them.

TEACHERS IN THE MAHOMET COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL 1920-1948 (Continued)

- 1931-32--Teachers exactly as preceding year. Principal paid a salary of \$2700
- 1932-33--Teachers exactly as they were for the two preceding years with the exception of Lora E. Anderson who replaced Norma Hussey as teacher of home economics. Salaries:--Warnes, \$133.32; McDill, \$155.83; Anderson, \$122.22; Stevenson, \$123.72; Johnson, \$155.83 and Ewing, \$40.
- 1933-34--Teachers almost identical to 1931-32 with Norma Hussey back as teacher of home economics at a salary of \$116.66 and Nadine Stout as teacher of music at \$45. Other teachers' salaries were cut--Warnes from \$133.32 to \$118; McDill from \$155.83 to \$133.33; Stevenson from \$123.72 to \$113; Johnson from \$155.83 to \$147.50 and Principal Price at \$211.11.
- 1934-35--Principal, Wilfred C. Coe. Other replacements--Mrs. Ruth S. Carson for teacher of English, replacing Lois Warnes and Mrs. Rosemary Fooley, teaching music three days a week, replacing Nadine Stout.
- 1935-36--Principal, H.C. Coe and Grace Vandervort as home economics' teacher, replacing Norma Hussey and Harold W. Dodd as teacher of music
- 1936-37--Roy P. Johnson replaced by Norman B. McClure and Cornelia Green and Lorene Jeffers replaced Adeline Stevenson (commercial teacher) and Dodd (teacher of music)
- 1937-38--Teachers: Principal, Edward V. Price, Edwin J. Thompson, Mae McDill, Ruth Carson, Grace Vandervort, James W. Sanders, Karl Massanari (who taught music, history and public speaking, this being the first year for the teaching of public speaking) This is the last year for Mae McDill's teaching here; her first year was 1926-1927.
- 1938-39--Teachers: Principal Edward V. Price, Edwin J. Thompson, James Sanders who was replaced February 13, 1939 by Lester Lange, Ruth Carson, Karl Massanari, Sylvia Shipman and Madeline Hatteberg.
- 1939-40--Teachers: Exactly as they were the last half of the preceding year
- 1940-41--Teachers: Prin. Edward V. Price, Edwin J. Thompson, Lester Lange who was replaced October 15, 1940 by L. W. Stein, Gretchen E. Miller, Karl L. Massanari, Naomi Feller and Madeline Hatteberg.
- 1941-42--Teachers: Exactly as they were the preceding year
- 1942-43--Teachers: Principal Karl L. Massanari at \$1950, D. R. Clark at \$2200, Naomi Feller at \$1350, Madeline Hatteberg, Rosemary Jantzen, Lawrence W. Stein and Beatrice Teter
- 1943-44--Teachers: Principal Karl L. Massanari (and also teacher of music) at \$2600, Donald Clark who taught ag until February 28 and was replaced by James Gibbons, Naomi Feller, Madeline Hatteberg, Mrs. Mescal J. Lovelass and Genevieve Stein

TEACHERS IN THE MACHOMET COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL 1920-1948 (Continued)

1944-45--Teachers: Principal Karl L. Massanari, James Gibbons, Isabel H. Swan, Madeline Hatteberg, Mrs. Mescal J. Lovelass, Mrs. Genevieve Stein, Mrs. Edith L. McDowell Bennett. Ora Crowley retired as janitor of the school on August 1, 1945, after twenty-two years of splendid service.

1945-46--Teachers: Principal Karl L. Massanari, Madeline Hatteberg, Mrs. Mascal Lovelass, Isabel Swan, Harold F. Engelking and Ida Mae Meyer

1946-47--Teachers: Principal Karl L. Massanari, Harold F. Engelking, John A. Harmon, Madeline Hatteberg, Lida Stowell, Mrs. Betty Rose, Isabel Swan Inskip

1947-48--Teachers: Principal L. J. Gnagey at \$3500, John A. Harmon at \$2750, Isabel S. Inskip, Kenneth W. Knell, Eunice Sifferd, Madeline Hatteberg Pugh, Betty Rose, and Norman Schreiber



Mrs. Silas J. (Grandma) Purnell and her Grandson, Paul Purnell

This picture of Mrs. S. J. "Grandma" Purnell (great grandmother of the author) and her grandson, Paul, was furnished by Mr. Ben Carson.

John Wesley believed in books and contributed numbers of volumes to Kingswood's library long after he founded the School, but he maintained that something else is of even greater importance in education. "Beware you be not swallowed up in books," he wrote the headmaster of the school in 1758, adding this reason:

"An ounce of love is worth a pound of knowledge."

Ben C. says, "Perhaps I took the picture on one of my many trips to "Grandma's" cooky jar.

## CHAPTER XXII

### GENERAL HISTORICAL CALENDAR FOR MAHOMET TOWNSHIP AND CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

In this chapter, an Historical Calendar for these same years that were covered in the School History is being given so you can get a "peek" into our nation as a whole at this time, and especially the other activities of our immediate community. To identify the book or record from which each item was taken, the following code was set up:

CC-A	County Commissioner's Record Book A
JSL	J. S. Lathrop's Champaign County Directory 1870-1871
BMc	Brink, McDonough & Company's History of Champaign County--1878
Henc1	Cunningham's Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois and Champaign County--1905
HCal	Historical Calendar of the old and new Town 1775-1900
Cent	Purnell's Mahomet Methodist Church Centennial, 1955
MTR	Mahomet's Town Record
MSS	Mahomet Sucker State
Fosd	Harry Emerson Fosdick's "The Autobiography"--The Living of These Days
SCA	S.C.Abbott's Diary
FBNews	Farm Bureau News
WE	Worldbook Encyclopedia
Tog	Together Magazine

The year is unknown but the Pottawattamie Indians are the tribe who named the river that runs through our village of Mahomet, "The Sangamon," which means in their language--"Plenty to eat."

1826--Joseph Lindsey entered the land under a government certificate where Mahomet now stands

1829--The friction match was invented (SCA)

1830--Jesse Tompkins was the first person who died in Mahomet Township (BMc)

1831--The first train in our country to be drawn by a steam locomotive made its initial run from Albany to Schnectady, New York (Fosd)

1832--First entry of land made in this Town of Mahomet was made by Isaac Busey of Urbana at the Vandalia land office October 22, 1832--120 acres. Thompson settled in Mahomet in 1830 and died and was buried in the township in 1832. Jonathan Maxwell came from Indiana in 1832 and settled on the farm now owned by Wiley Davis. (JSL)

Middletown was laid out in 1832 by Daniel Porter. Daniel Porter was the first postmaster and kept the first store. John Bryant had the first tavern. Jonathan Maxwell was the first blacksmith. Charles Parker was the first preacher and belonged to the Methodist Episcopal denomination. Dr. N. H. Adams was the first resident practitioner. The first house was built by John Osborne. (BMc)

The last red man passed across the Town of Mahomet to join savage hordes of Black Hawks at Rock Island. Sangamon River, as rivers go, is a very rapid and beautiful stream affording its immediate



vicinity picturesque scenery. Isaac Williams brought the first improved stock to the town. (Henc1)

1833--The first court held in Urbana was in an old log stable owned by Col. Busey. Two hickory trees indicate where the County Seat at Urbana will be. The first deed was recorded in Champaign County....

June--We the undersigned Commissioners appointed to locate the permanent seat of Justice in and for Champaign County do hereby certify that agreeable to act entitled "An Act creating Champaign County approved January the 20th 1833." We met at the house of Philip Stanford in said County and after being duly sworn, faithfully and impartially to take into view to the population and settlement which will hereafter be made and eligibility of the place, proceeded to explore and carefully examine the country and have selected a site and obtained a donation of forty-three acres of land, titles to thirty acres of which we have procured to be executed to the County Commissioners, Court of Champaign County; 19 50/100 acres of which--etc....The following Mass Report, --V.C. of the Commissioners appointed to the last legislature of the State of Illinois to locate the State Road from Pekin in Tazewell County to the 40 miles Post near the Big Grove in Champaign County was received and ordered to be recorded and filed in the clerk's office....Paid Samuel McClure \$1.87 for 1 1/2 days with wagon and team on State Road....Ordered that John Salisbury, Sheriff, proceed to collect the tax for the present year in the County of Champaign--\$77.37....Court held at the house of Matthew Busey.... Isaac Alexander granted permit to retail goods, \$3....Stray pen or pound be erected on the lot to set apart for a jail in Urbana, said stray to be of good and sufficient post and rail fence--5 panels square and furnish with a sufficient gate, lock and key. (Later saw where this cost \$11.50)....Appointed Road Commissioners....Paid fifty cents for day's service in surveying the town of Urbana....Sadorus paid \$11.25 for posting and keeping two estray mares taken up. (CC-A

Champaign County, originally a part of Vermilion County, was founded February 20, 1833. Champaign County, eastern half of the central belt of the State, 1008 square miles. County was organized in 1833 and named for a County in Ohio. Soil is black muck, underlaid by yellow clay. (Henc1)

1834--Henry Sadorus made the first entry of land in Champaign County. At this time there were no matches to be had and fire was possible only by flint and steel.

"When I was 9 years old I worked 5 months for Manning Rutan for my board and a suit of clothes. Rutan, a Grocer, owned the house and store he occupied; his wife was a retired school teacher. My work was to drive the cow to pasture and bring her back about sunset, and weed the garden, bring wood and water, and go on errands for Mrs. Rutan. She was a good woman, never scolded me, but often gave me little presents and made me a suit of clothes of nankeen and trimmed with braid and bright brass buttons. I also swept the store and lit the candles, (a bottle with sulphur and phosphorus and perhaps other substances--put a pine splinter in it and when exposed to the air would ignite.) Matches were not yet invented. (My father had a tinder box with dry punk or charred linen to catch the spark, then with flint and a piece of steel or a flint lock gun, strike fire, then

fine cedar or pine splint with sulphur on it catch the fire).(In 1805, Professor Chancil of France invented this way--a bottle filled with asbestos and sulfuric acid fine splinters dipped in sulphur and on the point chlorate of potash and sugar dipped in the bottle would ignite.) The friction match was invented in 1829. This must be drawn through a piece of sandpaper and kept from dampness." (SCA)

County Taxes, in total--\$88.97....Property was taxed: 1/2 of one per cent on horses, mares, mules, asses, neat cattle over three years old, clocks, watches, and their appendages, pleasure carriages and stock in trade (CC-A)

1835--First school established at Mahomet

Fielding Scott settled at Mahomet--640 acres. The trail between that settlement and Urbana was so very circuitous that he took a plow and team and ran a straight furrow to Urbana. Along the line of this furrow was formed the Bloomington Road (known to us as Route 150) (HCAl)

State Road from Urbana to Bloomington was opened. (BMc)

First Settler in Newcomb Township was James W. S. Mitchell who came from Lexington, Kentucky, bringing with him improved cattle (Henc1)

Appointed Constables, Justice of Peace, Notary Public, Grand Jurors, Petit Jurors....June term 1835--Ordered that Sangamon Settlement including Sadorus Grove be and the same is hereby constituted an election precinct and that an election be held in the house of John Bryan in said Precinct and it is further ordered that John G. Robertson, Jonathan Maxwell and John Mead be and they are hereby appointed Justices of election in said Precinct. Ordered that an election be held in the Sangamon Precinct at the next general elections for Justice and Constable for one Justice and one Constable....Revenue collected \$147.43....Urbana corner lots on Main Street--\$30; corner lots elsewhere,--\$20; back lots--\$10; Out lots--\$15....Appointed Israel Knapp, Pay Master for the Militia of the County. (CC-A)

1836--John Salisbury presented the petition of sundry citizens praying for a road from Urbana on the nearest and best route to intersect a county road laid out from Decatur to the county between Macon and Champaign counties, fixing the ford of the Sangamon River in the center of Section 36, T 20 N r 6 E and it appearing to the satisfaction of the court that previous notice has been given and funds deposited according to law, the prayer of the petitioner is granted....Col. Matthew Busey granted permission to keep a tavern....

The ferry rates shall be: one man 6 1/4 cents; one horse 6 1/4 cents; one horse wagon 25 cents; 2-horse wagon 37 1/2 cents; cattle per head 6 1/4 cents; and sheep and hogs per head 3 cents....

Temporary Courthouse undertaken by John Craig although not finished is not commenced according to contract and cannot be completed according to contract. Is ordered by the court that said Craig proceed to remove said house and refund \$48.50 already paid to him....

On motion of James H. Lyons, ordered that Philip Gilliland have license to keep a tavern at the residence of said Lyons, provided he

pay into the County the sum of \$2.....

The Innkeeper's rate shall be: for keeping a man and horse one night including supper, bed and horse feed, \$0.75; for a single meal- .18 3/4; for a single horse feed- .12 1/2; one-half pint whiskey- .06 1/4; one-half pint domestic brandy- .18 3/4; and one-half pint gin- .12 1/2....

The undersigned having been appointed to view a route for a proposed county road from Urbana to the County line between Champaign and Macon submit the following report: We are unanimously of the opinion that said road should leave the State road from Urbana to Bloomington near the house of John Bryan--thence in a S.W. direction on a blazed way to Jonathan Maxwell--thence on a staked route in the same direction to Jonathan Osborn--thence on a blazed route in the same direction to the County line intersecting the Decatur Road. We consider the opening of this road a measure of public utility and think likewise that it cannot be located on as good ground on any other route. Champaign County, Illinois, 5 December 1836. Signed Jonathan Osborn, Isaac Busey, which being, road was received, and said road is ordered to be opened and kept in repair as other county roads are....

Whereas in making the payments to William I. Peters for the erection of the Bridge at Strong's Ferry (Strong's Ferry is on Salt Fork) (bid off at \$426.00) the sum of \$100 appropriated by act of Assembly for the improvement of roads being then available was used. It is therefore ordered that said sum of one hundred dollars and 12 per cent interest be and the same is hereby deducted from said \$426. and the same will be by this court distributed regularly through the country on roads as originally proposed. Ordered that Cyrus Strong and he is hereby authorized to continue his ferry as heretofore without taking out regular license until the bridge at that place is made passable....

County levy and land tax of \$258.85--\$135.40, 1/2 is taxes on property and \$123.44, 1/2 is land tax....

Received from Asabel Bower \$2 to keep a tavern (In an article which appeared in the Champaign News Gazette under date of December 19, 1910 there was an article which listed Asabel Bower as the first teacher for the first schoolhouse which was constructed near Urbana in 1832)....

Listing of several judges and clerks of the late presidential election among whom were Fielding Scott who was paid 50 cents for the day's work; Joseph Lindsey who was paid \$1.10 and Asabel Bower who was paid 50 cents. (They were paid fifty cents a day for their services to work and five cents a mile for those who transmitted the poll books, so this accounts for Mr. Lindsey having received \$1.10)....

The temporary courthouse was erected with logs 24 feet long, 20 feet wide, 1 1/2 stories high. Raised on good stone pillars, shingle roof, sawn or hewn; joists and sleepers to an underfloor of undressed inch plank. One door and two windows on each side,

windows 12 lights 8 x 10 glass, the cracks in the walls to be stopped with lime and sand mortar.. Doors with shutters and iron latch....(CC-A)

A sketch made from memory by Mr. Stidham of the old log jail showed an outside stairway of the 1 1/2 story log building.(HCal)

Porter, who laid out the town of Middletown, had a hotel and variety store. Crozier from Condit erected a small mill, which in 1867 was washed away by floods and rebuilt that same year by Humes.

1837--Land Grants signed by Martin Van Buren were recorded in the Court-house at Urbana. (HCal)

Fielding Scott, Road Commissioner. (BMc)

March--On motion of M.H. Jose, ordered that he have a writ of adquoddammum (assess damages) to examine a mill seat on Sangamon River on Lot 15, Section 16, T 20 NR 7 E....

Ordered that Lot No. 46 and the same is hereby given to Simon P. Motz as a donation to him for his heirs provided he becomes an actual citizen of the town and improves his lot aforesaid by erecting a dwelling house or houses thereon and remaining such citizen for two years from this date. Otherwise he shall pay the County the sum of \$35 at which the same is valued....

William Osborn have license to keep a ferry on the Sangamon River at or near where the State Road crosses the same provided he pay into the County Treasurer the sum of \$2. and the legal fee....

Order that T. R. Webber have an order to the County Treasurer for the sum of 7.18 3/4 in full for goods purchased by A. Shaw for J. Horner to that date. (Author believes that Horner is one of the residents of the community handled on a sort of relief basis and that Shaw had kept him and was asking for reimbursement)....

Israel Knapp, having agreed to keep Jefferson Horner for the term of six weeks at \$1.50 per week, it is ordered that he receive said Horner and if he keeps him well for said term, we agree to make an order for \$9. in pay to I. Knapp....

Ordered that all that part of Sangamon Settlement lying east of the river and extending E. to the center of Range Eight be formed into a Road District and that John Bryan be and he is hereby appointed supervisor thereof....

Ordered that all that part of Sangamon settlement lying west of the river and extending to the County line formed into a road district and that Joseph Lindsey be and he is hereby appointed supervisor there....

\$3. paid for fine of assault and battery....

\$5. paid for larceny....

Letitia Prather is not fully divorced from husband who can support her and thus she is not a county charge.... (CC-A)

October--for the purpose of letting the erection of a bridge across Salt Fork at or near Strong's Ferry. Whereupon the

following plan is adopted to wit. The frame work is to be 270 feet long, 16 feet 4 inches high and 15 feet wide, to be divided into 7 spans as follows: 1st span 30 feet from the top of the East bank to the first bent--2, 40 feet to the second bent--3, 30 feet to the 3rd bent--4, 30 feet to the 4th bent and 30 feet to the 5th bent and 6th bent and 30 feet to an abutment 3 feet lower than the frame work--thence to continue 50 feet on good abutments covered with puncheons--the three first mud sills to be 45 feet long, the rest to be 16 feet long, the posts to be 12 by 16 inches, 15 feet between joints--the three first bents to be braced from both outsides with braces 12 inches square with 15 feet run. The girders to be 15 feet long 12 by 16 inches framed with a three inch mortise through and boxes in, 4 inches the string pieces to be 12 by 16 inches and long enough to splice 18 inches on each bent. The outside string piece to be let on posts with a three-inch mortise and tenon--5 string pieces on 40 feet space and 4 on 30 feet space covered with good two inch oak plank and pinned on each sill 1 1/2 inch pins in the hand rails to be 6 inches square 3 1/2 feet high and braced every 15 feet. The posts to be 6 inches square and one post for every 5 feet--an embankment is to be added to the west end of the frame work and abutment of such length as to make the whole length of frame and embankment 30 rods, the embankment is to be as high as the abutments. The whole of the work to be constructed of good white burr or sawed oak material (CC-A)

William Pancake from Ohio, in 1837, settled in the timber west of the river (Newcomb Township) known as Pancake's Point. (Henc1)

1838--Commissioner's Court, January Term, 1838. Friday, January 19, 1838. This day a County Commissioner's Court of Champaign County, Illinois, was held at the house of Isaac Busey. Present, Cyrus Strong, William Nox, Jr., Hiram Johnson.

On motion, it is ordered that a prison for this county be let this day to the lowest responsible bidder to be completed on or before the first Monday in March 1839. To wit:

First a foundation of brick 18 feet square, 18 inches in the ground at the lowest earth leveled and raised 9 inches above ground at the highest part of ground, 13 inches thick, of good hard brick laid in good sand and lime mortar of equal parts and well mixed; inside of which there is to be a tier of oak logs not less than one foot thick hewn square and leveled 2 1/2 inches below the top of the brick foundation on which there is to be a flat pavement of arch brick laid flat, on which and cropping the former tier there is to be a floor of hewn oak timber 6 inches thick and not less than one foot wide (hewn square and fitted well) pinned in each end and the outside log pinned on each end of the bottom tier, with two inch oak pins.

The outer wall to be built of white or Burr oak logs hewn 12 inches square and raised half dovetail. The inner wall to be built of oak one foot square raised half dovetail with a 6 inch space between walls, to be filled with haved or peeled poles or sawed timbers (at the election of the undertaker) so placed as to stand loosely on end, said poles are to be of oak or hickory. The inner wall is to be



8 feet high on the top of which there is to be a floor of hewn timbers 8 inches thick, on which there is to be a floor of 1 1/2 inch oak plank jointed and well nailed down. The upper story to be seven feet in the clear, and garret floor of hewn timber 6 inches thick, laid close from side to side with each end to extend to the outsides of the side logs, and sawed off even, on the top of which there are to be wall plates 7 by 14 inches let on the ends of the Top flat tier or garret floor, within 3 inches of the side logs, projecting 7 inches, well pinned and confined to the evebearers or end plates on which there is to be a good joint shingle roof with gavels and all complete.

In the lower story there are to be two windows of one foot square each (one in each side) with crop bars of iron in the inner and outer walls of inch square bars let through two inch by 3/4 bars. Two perpendicular square bars and three horizontal flat bars, the upper and lower bars to be let into the log and the ends of the square bars to extend into the logs at bottom and top 4 inches. The upper story to have one window in the west side large enough to receive a six light sash of 8 by 10 glass, with grates in the center, of the description of the lower windows except 4 perpendiculars and five horizontals cased and filled with sash and glass on the inside of the grates.

The door is to be in the south end, six feet high and two feet 3 inches wide with solid facing 3 by 6 inches let into the outer six inches of the wall in a rabbet so as to be level or fair with the inner six inches well spiked in, and the whole jams well cased and filled with a shutter of well seasoned oak plant 1 1/2 inches thick, three double, the outer side to be perpendicular, the inside to be diagonal and the centre to be horizontal, laid out into two inch square checkers with large round head wrought nails, one in the crop of each line, driven through and clinched. The door to be hung with large wrought hinges, well secured and furnished with a good lock, suited for that purpose. In front of which there is to be a platform 4 by 6 ft. square six inches below the door sill, railed around and set on a frame with four posts from the ground, to which there is to be a set of mill steps with hand railing 4 feet high.

In the centre of the floor of the second story there is to be a trap door, 2 by 3 feet of double 2 inch oak plant with wrought hinges extending across, well rivitted and one iron bar to fit over the door, confined at one end with a staple rivitted through the floor into two inch square burrs 1/2 inch thick and the other end to fit over a staple, rivitted in the same manner so as to receive a lock. The hooks also on which the door is hung, are to be rivitted in the same way. The lock bar to be two inches wide and 3/4 thick; the hooks and eyes of the hinges and the rivits will be 3/4 inch material-- In the most convenient place on the lower floor there is to be a good ring and staple of 3/4 inch material well secured on the undersides of the upper tier of the floor with burrs. The spaces between the logs of the wall are to be one inch wide. All plank used in the building is to be well seasoned and the job executed in a workman-like manner, and finished on or before the first Monday in March 1839.

Said building was then cried and struck off to Col. M. W. Busey. The lowest bidder at the sum of \$850. and it is ordered that one half of said sum be paid the said Busey in the three equal instalments at the next March, June and September terms of this court and the balance be paid at the March term of this court, 1839. It is further ordered that the above work will be received by the court whenever it may be completed agreeably to the aforesaid plan. Provided it is finished at any time previously to the first Monday in March 1839 and it is further ordered that T. R. Webber endeavor to collect of the moneys of the County under his control sufficient to defray the first instalment amounting to \$141.66 2/3 to be paid over at next March term and that Moses Thomas likewise endeavor to collect sufficient for a half the second instalment and Webber the other half. Ordered that Garret Moore, County Surveyor, be requested to correct an error which is found to exist in the survey of the Plat of Urbana.

Ordered that Alexander Shaw have an order to the County Treasury for the sum of \$12.75 in full for board he furnished J. Horner.

Ordered that T. R. Webber sell out lot No. 1 provided he can obtain thirty dollars therefor.

Ordered that court adjourn. Cyrus Strong, Hiram Johnson, William Nox.  
.....

Adkins pay \$18.33 for keeping Horner, deceased, and his burial expenses....

William Jeremiah an order \$7 for services as coroner in guarding John Gunn, a state prisoner.... (CC-A)

1839--Peter Cartwright preached at the Big Grove at Sadorus (Hcal)  
June 23,--A group of Baptists from Middletown, now Mahomet, drove over to Mt. Pleasant, now Farmer City, and organized the Bethel Missionary Baptist Church. (Cent)

1840--First Methodist Church built in Urbana. Lot was \$3. Church was 30 x 40 (Hcal)  
First Church built by Baptists in Champaign-Urbana. (BMc)  
Amasa built the first saw and grist mill in Mahomet (BMc)  
In Mahomet, the first Baptist church was constructed in the north-east corner of the present grade school grounds (which would be about where Mrs. Clara Stuckey now lives for when Route 47 was put in, a part of the grade school land was taken) (Cent)

1841--John Mead, commissioner of all roads East of the Sangamon....  
Johnson, a ferry on the Sangamon River....Inability to collect taxes in amount of \$28.39....State road from Shelbyville to Chicago via Urbana....for assessing the county, \$25.00.... (CC-A)

1842--

1843--Judge's fees up to 75 cents per day (versus 50 cents)....September 15,  
1843--propose bridge over Sangamon....W.M.H.Jackson have leave to purchase lots No. 76 and 77, the first at \$8., the second at \$25. to be paid for by keeping Robert H. Newton, a poor child (rate of 75 cents a week). (CC-A)

- 1844--Middlefork Precinct not established until 1844 (This is the same as Homer.) (CC-A)
- 1845--Match invented (SCA)
- 1846--
- 1847--Wiley Davis came to Mahomet--900 acres (JSL)
- 1848--The first attempt to organize women as a group to obtain equal rights with men was made at Seneca Falls, New York. (Fosd)  
 Andrew Carnegie, at the age of eleven, was a child of a destitute immigrant family who landed in the United States and got a job in a cotton factory at \$1.20 per week. (Fosd)  
 Record of the mill at Mahomet. (Cent.)
- 1849--James Fisher came from Ohio--500 acres (JSL)  
 Samuel Houston settled west of the river (Newcomb Township) (Henc1)
- 1850--First bridge built across the Sangamon (BMc)  
 Trustees appointed to select a piece of ground to build a Missionary Baptist Meeting House in Middletown (Cent)  
 Middletown Cemetery--Village Cemetery, was laid off as a public burial ground (Cent)  
 February--biggest snowfall fell in Central Illinois. It snowed constantly for four days and nights until the snow was four feet on a level while drifts were twenty to twenty-five feet high. (Cent)
- 1851--Newcomb Township's first school.  
 John D. Rockefeller, at the age of thirteen, was working on his father's farm, ten hours a day, digging potatoes. (Fosd)
- 1852--John R. Rayburn, came from Ohio in 1852, with a farm of about 400 acres, has no superior in the land as an agriculturist. The secret of his success, as well as many of this town we could name, lies in the fact that they bring to their vocation an enthusiastic love for it and do not (as in the case with too many) engage in farming because they have not the means or ability to do anything else. The fact ought to be known that the man who has not the ability to engage in other employments is utterly unfit to farm, that business requiring more real intelligent brain work than any other known.  
 Lists of persons in Mahomet Township and their occupations:
- |                         |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Dan Chaney, teacher     | G.W. Allen, Physician    |
| Jess Michael, teacher   | J.A. Carson, Druggist    |
| W.H. McCracken, teacher | J.B. Eckerman, Druggist  |
| W. V. Miller, teacher   | J.D. Gardiner, Physician |
| A.D. Sizer, teacher     | J.H. Gardiner, Physician |
| Henry Smizer, Physician | A. Tucker, Brickmaker    |
| B.F. Rousch, Druggist   | J.P. Turner, Brickmaker  |
- (JSL)
- 1853--
- 1854--Riverside Cemetery (at Mahomet) was laid off, the original owner being J. W. Pancake. (Cent)
- 1855--Middletown circuit was organized (for Methodist Church) extending from Fisher to Centerville. (Cent)

- 1856--Maps of Illinois under date of 1840 have Mahomet versus Middletown.... Many years the mail was addressed Middletown, Mahomet P.O....The Lodge records in 1856 call it Mahomet....October 7, 1856, the Masonic Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 22 (at Mahomet) was granted a charter....A Methodist house of worship was completed. (Cent)  
There is no other river, mountain, lake or town in the world by the name of Mahomet. Mr. Elbert Morrison had a stamp made with the inscription concerning the fact that Mahomet is the only town so named and this stamp has been used on his mail that has gone to all parts of the world and the statement has never been challenged.
- 1857--There were forty-six schools in Champaign County. The First Teachers' Institute was held this year.
- 1858--Mrs. Fletcher opened a young ladies Institute on Neil Street in Champaign....J.R. Scott's father came here from Kentucky bringing his slaves with him. Their little cabins were standing on the old Scott farm as late as 1872. (Hcal)  
The Presbyterian Church at Mahomet was completed. (Cent)
- 1859--
- 1860--The custom was inaugurated in Urbana of making New Year's calls (Hcal)
- 1861--June 1--The church doors were thrown open for the first time except for a religious meeting. Sixty-nine men enlisted in Company I of the 125th Illinois Voluntary Infantry Regiment (at Mahomet) (Cent)
- 1862--Abbott's Hall at Mahomet was completed at a cost of \$800. (Cent)
- 1863--The first street cars from Champaign to Urbana were drawn by a pair of mules....The frost practically ruined the corn which rose in price from 12 cents to \$1.00 a bushel. The next morning B.F.Harris, seeing the situation, bought most of the corn between Champaign and Bloomington. (Hcal)  
Possibly the first brick yard was opened in Mahomet by Alanson Tucker.(Cent)
- 1864--January 1--coldest day on record--40 degrees below zero. (Cent)
- 1865--
- 1866--
- 1867--Newcomb Township--Newcomb named after Ethan Newcomb was settled on the Ford and Newcomb, known as Newcomb's Ford until 1867 when it became two separate towns--Newcomb and Ford (Henc1)  
The first stamped envelopes were used here. (Hcal)  
Summer--Dedication of the present Baptist Church building in Mahomet....A steam flour mill in Mahomet...The Methodist Church in Centerville was commenced in 1866-67 by Rev. R.W.Travis (Cent)
- 1868--A mass meeting was held at the Congregational Church in Champaign to plan for a public dinner on the day of the inauguration of the Industrial University. Another was held at Urbana for the same purpose. (Hcal)
- 1869--The first lumber yard was established in Mahomet by John Egbert.(Cent)  
Beginning of I.B. and W. Railroad (Indianapolis, Bloomington & Western) (JSL) This railroad was nicknamed "I Better Walk."

1869--First use of gas in the City of Champaign (Hcal)

This is the year the town's name was changed from Middletown to Mahomet. (Other records show the year as being 1871) (SCA)

1870--Certificate of Stock in the Indianapolis, Bloomington and Western Railroad No. 45 dated June 24th 1870 for five hundred shares of \$100 each was turned over to Supervisor J.C. Ware by Ex-supervisor Hume (MTR)

The population of Mahomet was 670 and they had one graded school(JSL) Prior to 1870 there existed a brick yard at the Calvin Rayburn place. Mr. Thomas Dale obtained brick from here to build his residence 1 1/4 miles southwest of Mahomet. (Cent)

Page 7--Mahomet's Town Record

Town of Middletown  
County of Champaign  
State of Illinois

RELEASE

Whereas a road having been laid out on the 28th February 1870 D.J. Ford, Joseph Maxwell and Silas Purnell, Commissioners of Highways of the town of Middletown in the County of Champaign on the application of the requisite number of legal voters residing within three miles of said road as follows:

Commencing at the S.E. corner of the S.W.Qr of the S.W. Qr. of Sec. 25 in said Town of Middletown and running directly North to the Bloomington Road which road passes through certain lands by me being known as follows N.W. Qr. of the S.W.Qr. and the S.W. Qr of the N.W. Qr. of Sec. Twenty five of the Town of Middletown.

Now therefore know all men by these presents that I, R. G. Rayburn, for value received do hereby release all claims to damages sustained by me by reason of laying out and opening said road through my said lands above described.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 18th day of February A.D. 1870.

R. G. Rayburn

Executed and delivered in the presence of O.M. Closs

(This would be the laying out of the road that runs north and south on the east line of what are today known as the Frank W. Taylor and Charles S. Purnell farms.)

Page 9--Mahomet's Town Record

Town of Middletown  
County of Champaign  
State of Illinois

REPORT OF COM. OF HIGHWAYS

We the undersigned Commissioners of Highways of the Town of Middletown in the County of Champaign 28th day of Feb. A.D. 1870 upon due application made to us for that purpose laid out a road as follows--commencing at the S.E. corner of the S.W. Qr. of the S.W.Qr of Sect. Twenty five in said Town of Middletown and running directly North to the Bloomington road and certain owners of lands over which said road passes to wit:



Wm. P. Dick and John R. Rayburn not having all claims to damages sustained by reason of laying out and opening the same and not being able to agree with them as to the amount of such damages having applied to them and each of them for that purpose and endeavored to make such agreement, we proceeded to assess the same at what we deemed just and right to each individual claimed with whom we could not agree taking into account and estimating the advantages and benefits the road will confer on the claimants for the same as well as all disadvantages and have assessed the damages of each owner as follows:

To Wm. P. Dick on land in sect. Twenty four in the town of Middletown at One Hundred Dollars being improved land and to John R. Rayburn on lands in the same sect. we have estimated the advantages of said road equal any and all said damages.

In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands this 28th day of Feb. A.D. 1870

D.J. Ford

Joseph Maxwell

Silas Purnell

Commissioners of Highways

(MTR)

1871--p. 20--Mahomet's Town Record

Town of Middletown

County of Champaign

State Illinois

March 1st 1871

Receipt

Mahomet, Ill. March 1st, 1871 (MTR)

(The author believes this is the record of the changing of the name from Middletown to Mahomet. Mr. Lee Dale writes, "Middletown was originally called by that name on account of its being about half way between Danville and Bloomington." )

Mrs. Louise Purnell Jones tells that one of her pupils at the time she was teaching the fifth and sixth grades in Mahomet wrote a theme and in the theme claimed that Capt. T. M. Brown, founder of the Mahomet Sucker State, proposed the name "Mahomet." The child also stated that Capt. Brown had come from Mahomet, England. It is believed this story is not true for the author of this book attempted to verify a Mahomet, England and could not find that there ever was such a place, according to the Chicago Motor Club.

Pacific encampment No. 126 I.O.O.F. at Mahomet (Cent)

1872--Big Mahomet fire and business houses moved west on Main Street....

The town of Mahomet was incorporated. (Cent)

1873--p. 61--Mahomet's Town Record

State of Illinois

County of Champaign

Town of Mahomet

Whereas upon the application of Augustus Pfisterer, Gerrod M. McCinnes, Richard Johnson, Robt. Osborn, James G. Osborne, Joshua

Smith, Joseph Wright, George Beaver, S. Wright, Alfred Wright, Harry Wright, Jno. W. Richards, A. M. Myers, Jn. Wright, Jno. Smith, G. W. Oats, S. A. Stilwell, Thos. Dale and Silas Purnell, (19) nineteen legal voters residing within three miles of the route herein after described for a public road, a copy of their petition having been first duly posted up as required by law, We the Commissioners of Highways of said town did on the 6th day of September A.D. 1873 personally examine the said proposals in said petitions for a road to wit:

Commencing at the N.W. corner of the school house lot in District No. 4 G20, N W 7 E in said Town of Mahomet and running from thence directly east 40 rods, thence on a strait line north 280 rods to the point when the aforesaid road is intersected by a road from the rear the residence of A.A.S. Lewellen so making the present road to conform to the line described by straightening the said road where it crosses a stream on the land of William Sterns and having before determined to lay out or alter said road fixed upon a time and place when and where we would meet to hear any reasons for or against the altering the said road, and having caused written notices thereof to be posted up in three of the most public places in said town eight days previous to the time of such meeting and having met at the time and place appointed for hearing such reasons and having heard such as were offered and being of the opinion that such altering is necessary and proper and that the public interest would be promoted thereby, and having granted the prayers of said petitioners and determined to alter said roads, we did on the 28th day of October A.D. 1873 cause a survey thereof to be made by a competent surveyor as follows (surveyors report hereunto alterations). It is therefore ordered and determined that a road be and the same is hereby laid out and established according to said survey and the plats hereunto annexed and made a part of this order which is hereby declared to a public highway, four rods wide, the line of said survey being the center of said road.

In testimony whereof we the said commissioners have hereunto set our hands this 28th day of November A.D. 1873

Sm. Stearns

D.J. Ford

R.G. Rayburn

Commissioners of Highways

(MTR)

(This pertains to the laying out of the road that runs by what is today known as Spring Lake, and down to the old Martin School.)

It is interesting to know how the spelling of the name "Phisterer" was changed from its original way to its present day way of "Pfiester." Mr. August Pfiesterer (as related by Mrs. Otis Pfiester) purchased a suitcase from the elderly Mr. Joseph Kuhn of Joseph Kuhn and Company and gave his name as "Pfiesterer." Mr. Kuhn dropped the second "er" so August did likewise and from that time on, the name has been spelled "Pfiester."

1874--p. 70--Mahomet's Town Record  
State of Illinois  
Champaign Co.  
Town of Mahomet

At a meeting of the commissioners of Highways of said Town of Mahomet held at the town clerk's office in said town on the 20th day of April A.D. 1874 the commissioners have proceeded to ascertain, estimate and assess the highway and road tax to be performed and paid in said town the ensuing year do estimate and assess two days highway labor to each and every male inhabitant in said town liable to be assessed for highway labor to be performed in said town the ensuing year and we do assess a road tax of fifteen cents on each one hundred dollars worth of real estate and personal property liable to taxation of said town as valued on the assessment roll of the past year to be paid in said town the ensuing year.

Witness our hands this 20th day of April A.D. 1874

Wm. Stearns

D.J. Ford

Dommissioners Highway

(MTR)

1875--The drug store of A. Lewellen, Jr. burned (in Mahomet) and Henry S. Wilson who was sleeping in the store at the time, burned to death. (BMc)

1876--March 28--a big snow fell and drifted. Farmers drove to town through the fields, going over fences. (Cent)

On Lots 25-27 there was built in 1876 by James Davidson a two-story frame residence, later known as the Silas Purnell home. (This is west of the grade school yard.) At one time it was known as the finest residence in Mahomet; in it was the only bathroom in the town. The inside of the tub was all copper, and the cabinet which enclosed it was solid walnut. (Cent)

1877--first successful charity organization in any city of the nation was established. (Fosd)

1878--Mahomet had 800 inhabitants, two flouring mills, one grain elevator, 8 stores that did an annual business of \$50,000, one graded school and three churches--Presbyterian, Methodist and Baptist, 2 wagon shops and plow works and Mason's and Odd Fellows. (BMc)

Milk was being sold in bottles in Brooklyn. (Fosd)

John D. Rockefeller was a tycoon, just 27 years after he was digging potatoes on his father's farm. (Fosd)

1879--Thomas Davidson was owner of the elevator at Mahomet...The Mahomet Sucker State issued its first number, per Champaign County History, Volume I. Others say the first issue was January 1878. (Cent.)

Editors for the Mahomet Sucker State have been Capt. T. M. Brown, Charles Pierson, Charles Dale, Charles Pugh, . . . Nall,

Thomas Edison invented the iridescent lamp (Fosd)

1880--"Bill" Johnson tells that "Old Man" Geiger was mayor of Mahomet, perhaps in the 1880's, and refused to let the Bell Telephone Company go through the town; it had to go north and around the town. With the first telephone lines, each person was sold a book of coupons when the telephone was installed and each coupon entitled the holder to make a telephone call. (Cent)

A difference of opinion arose in the Mahomet Presbyterian Church during the political campaign between Tilden and Hayes in 1880, and as a result of this dispute, no preaching services were held for five years. (Cent)

Farm Picture: Some farm record books kept by one Illinois farmer in the 1880's reveal a factual picture of farming and farm living at that time. These books belonged to George W. Hall who farmed near Lawn Ridge in Peoria County from about 1870 to 1890. They were recently given to the University of Illinois, Department of Agricultural Economics by his daughter, Miss Mary E. L. Hall, who lives in California.

R. A. Hinton, U. of I. farm management specialist, has summed up Hall's farm business this way:

Grain Sales	\$428	Taxes	\$ 47
Livestock sales	1,080	Farm Supplies	100
Miscellaneous Income	92	10 months hired labor	175
Total Income	<u>\$1,600</u>	New mower	<u>73</u>
Cash Balance left	\$1,205	Total Expenses	\$ 395

He recorded spending \$292 for various household supplies, \$41. for interest and \$660 for repayment of debt.

How did prices then compare with today? Hall received about 47 cents a bushel for corn, 32 cents for oats, \$1.01 per hundred pounds for milk, \$5. a head for calves, 6 cents a pound for beef, 4 1/2 cents for a pound of hogs, 9 cents a dozen for eggs and 5 1/2 cents a pound for chickens. He paid \$14 a month wages to his hired man, \$4.85 a bushel for clover seed, \$1. for 10 pounds of sugar, \$1.65 for a 50 pound sack of flour, 17 cents per hundred board feet for lumber and \$4. a keg for nails. When he went shopping for his wife, he paid \$1.30 for 9 yards of calico, 25 cents for 2 yards of cotton flannel and 70 cents for 7 yards of gingham.

How would Hall's operation compare with the typical Peoria County farm today? While Hall farmed 160 acres, the average farm today is about 260 acres. The land and buildings on Hall's farm were worth about \$5,800 in 1880. The typical Peoria County farm today is worth about \$89,210. Hall raised 35 hogs while farmers now average about 230. Farmers in this area today raise fewer cattle, dairy cows and hens than Hall had in 1880. The typical Peoria County record keeping farmer now receives about \$7,318 from grain, \$15,955 from livestock and \$1,000 from other sources for a total of \$24,273. Total farm expense average \$17,430 per year.--

Taxes	\$ 1,274	Feed	\$3,379
Hired labor	229	Livestock	4,263
Farm supplies	4,319	New machinery and equip.	2,945
Fertilizer	1,001	Cash balance *	6,843
*Cash balance for family living, interest debt repayment and other purposes (FBNews)			

1880--The houses being built in these early years had few, if any, closets built in them. There would be a large 1 x 4 board which was nailed to the side wall, with pegs on it, to be used for hanging up one's hat and/or cloak. Sometimes an area would be curtained off as a closet; occasionally there were the wardrobes as a separate piece of furniture.

The newer homes were being built with parlors. Of course, the parlors were only used on occasion and were certainly not used as a family room. In the parlor would be the organ, if the family could afford one. The houses now were being built with stairways (solid walnut stair railings, of course) and the children had great fun sliding down this banister, when the parents weren't looking. The fireplace was not a necessity in the home for there were the base-burners and round oak stoves which were coming into use, as well as the cook stoves. In most any home, was father's, or grandfather's spittoon. The bath tub in most homes was the family's wash tub which was put in the middle of the kitchen floor and it did serve it's purpose quite well.

Most homes still had what they called the summer kitchen where the food was prepared during the warm weather and then carried into the regular dining room of the home; this way the heat was kept out of the house proper. One big event in the spring housecleaning was moving into the summer kitchen. Housecleaning time also meant putting fresh straw under the carpeting which was carefully tacked down. (Did you ever sweep the carpet which had the straw underneath as a padding?) Straw was also used to fill the bed ticks until the corn sheller came into vogue and then the fresh cornshucks were put into the bed ticks. (And such a noise these ticks would make when they had been freshly filled with the corn husks!)

Orchards were large as well as the berry patches and gardens. The farmers' children were well fed, at least during the summer months. Then much canning was done to preserve the food for the use of the large families during the winter months. Apple butter and peach butter were made in the open copper kettles, out over the fire. The butters were cooked down so well that it was then canned in eight and ten-gallon stone jars and put in the basement. Another familiar object was the sauerkraut barrel.

In these years--the 80's and gay nineties, and on to the turn of the century, home was the most impressive experience in life for this was a country of isolation. Trips were not made to town very often but when the head of the household did go to town by wagon or spring wagon, he would bring back the mail and all the news of the village. Mrs. Charles Purnell was always greatly impressed by her father's infrequent visits to the Village of Mahomet and his return with news; or it could be that an older married brother or sister had been home for the day and brought in some news which seemed quite exciting to her as a child. The only persons Mrs. Purnell saw besides the teacher at Harmony school and her fellow classmates was Mrs. Eliza Davis whose home she passed on her way to and from school. One evening, Mrs. Purnell felt she must take the place of



her father in relating exciting news, and not having anything to tell, she made up her story to her mother by saying, "Did you know 'Lide' Davis was dead?" Immediately the mother was alarmed and assumed that the daughter had got the news when passing by Mrs. Davis' house, but it was only the child's feeling of compulsion to tell something exciting; there was no truth in the story. Of course, Mrs. Davis is still living today. In the Rayburn household, there has always been the saying, when wanting to tell something exciting of--"Did you know Lide Davis was dead?" Mrs. Purnell states that she never realized when she was a child of eight years of age that her "made-up story" would last so long.

Holidays were festive occasions in these early homes, but these days were not observed as we would today. Mrs. Purnell says their family always had a Christmas tree, even though gifts were not plentiful. She relates that one year, as she peeked through the crack of the door and saw the stately Christmas tree, she saw a doll and was most elated to think she was getting a new doll. Later she was very disappointed when the doll was given to one of her nieces instead of to her. On another occasion, no gifts had been purchased for her because there had been illness in the home but she did receive a China mug which was cracked. Again it was disappointing when she learned the cup had really been purchased by her sister for her own daughter but had been given to her,--given to her because she was to receive no other gifts. Mrs. Purnell also tells of how her mother would attempt to accumulate enough eggs so that everyone could have an egg for his Easter breakfast. Hens were not fed in those days as they are today so eggs in the spring of the year were not plentiful.

1881--

1882--

1883--

1884--The first pavement was laid in Champaign. (Hcal)

1885--The first use was made of electric lights in Champaign....Mr. Walters amassed a fortune pulling teams out of mud at Five Points in the early 50's (Hcal)

1886--

1887--Dr. C.D. Culver had a telephone line between his residence and his office in Mahomet (Cent)

1888--Sisters' Home and Parochial School of the St. Mary's Catholic Church was established in Champaign. (Hcal)

In 1888, Jonas Lester got a contract from the city to gravel Main Street from Ford's Corner to Geiger's Corner. Mr. Lester hauled eight loads in ten hours and received \$2.40 for man and team for ten hours of work. (Cent)

1889--An electric car made its first trip in Champaign. (HCal)

1890--Mrs. Charles Purnell tells the thrill she had of going to "Grandma" Dale's home with her sister, Grace, for Mrs. Thomas Dale had crackers in a cracker jar and few homes had bought crackers.

1891--In the early 90's, Joseph Carson started his drug store at its present location. Carson's Drug was started in 1869 across the river.

1892--November 3--George McClure opened a bank at Mahomet, known later as Mahomet State Bank (Cent)

1893--Bananas were just now appearing on the market. Mrs. Charles Purnell tells of an older brother bringing her a banana but when he wasn't looking she threw it over the chicken yard fence, not liking any part of it.

The World's Fair was held in Chicago. John Rayburn, an older brother of Mrs. Charles Purnell's attended the Fair, making the trip to Chicago by train and on a Sunday. John took a cold which developed into pneumonia which later caused his death. The father, R.G. Rayburn, thought the son's death was because he had traveled on Sunday, for Sunday was to be the Lord's Day and a day of rest.

1894--The typhoid fever epidemic in the community which struck the Rayburn family especially hard, causing three deaths--a son-in-law, Lew Clapper, in October, and two sons--one in December of '94 and one in January of '95.

May 14, record high of 89 degrees

1895--November 8--Rebekah Lodge No. 417 was formed at Mahomet (Cent)

Cornerstone of the new Methodist Church was laid at Mahomet (Cent)

The early churches did not have an organ for they were believed by some to be the work of the devil.. In the old Methodist Church, the men were seated on one side of the church and the ladies and the children were seated on the opposite side of the church.

May 14, 1895--record low of 28 degrees

1896--

1897--

1898--The first Rayburn Reunion was held at the R.G. Rayburn Homestead, now known as the Frank W. Taylor farm, on September 1. Mrs. Charles Purnell tells of the huge tubs of lemonade which were provided and that her father had purchased a full bunch of bananas which he hung from one of the cherry trees, which was the first full stalk of bananas she had ever seen. If her memory serves her correctly, each child would grab off one more banana as he passed by. Long tables were set up in the yard and filled with food for this family gathering. (These Rayburn Reunions are still being held annually.)

1899--Formation of Gideon Society

1900--Champaign County--eastern half of the central belt of the State, 1008 square miles, population of Champaign 47,622. Urbana population, 5,708, is County seat and it is connected to Champaign by electric railway. Other towns are Tolono with a population of 1000 and Rantoul with a population of 1200. There is the University

in both towns. There are "manufacturies" of carriages and machines, several schools, a Burnham hospital, the Garwood Old Ladies Home and a handsome park in the residential area covering 10 acres.... Mahomet has progressed from a wilderness to a high place in the communities of Illinois....Thinly settled frontier settlement where the wild game roamed at pleasure and where the wild Indian came as a foe to white man; where the boundless prairies all around echoed no friendly voice and when no human habitation gave promise of a change from barbarism to civilization....Men in the great work of meeting these exigencies (at Mahomet) were B.F.Harris, Fielding Scott, Hezekiah Phillippe, John Rea, George Boyer, William Stearns, John Carter, William Herriott, James Ware, Wiley Davis, John G. Rayburn, Joshua Smith, John Bryan, The Davidsons, Thomas A. and James W., J.V. Pittman, James C. Kilgore, John W. Park, J. D. Webb, J. Q. Thomas, and Robert Davis....Schools of village and town of which there are seven do the town great honor. (Henc1)

Early settlers in Newcomb township, besides Samuel Houston, were Joseph T. Everitt, John H. Funston and James Smith Hannah who was Justice of Peace and Supervisor....Near where Mitchell settled was Shiloh (Methodist) Church and the Post Office was called Shiloh Center....The township was divided into eight school districts and is behind none of its fellows in the character of its schools (Henc1) Bell Telephone company (long distance) installed their toll lines in Mahomet (Cent.)

May 14, 1900--near record high of 88 degrees.

1900--1921--Farmers Picnics were held in Mahomet. (Cent) At the Farmers' Picnic (held in what was then known as the Pittman woods) a platform surrounded with cornstalks would be set up. The audience would be seated on new planks in front of this platform. There were ice cream stands, a large horse tank which was the source of supply of drinking water for the occasion, an orchestra was always a part of the entertainment and the men in the community engaged in a ball game.

Around this time (the exact year is not known) was the beginning of the fall carnivals and July 4 celebrations (Cent)

1901--Andrew Carnegie was the foremost steel manufacturer of the country (Fosd)

Two toll lines were located in Mahomet (Cent)

Interurban cars run to Danville from Champaign. (HCal)

1902--June 6--Post Office, Ford's General Store, Donham's Restaurant, drug store and two blacksmith shops were destroyed by fire in Mahomet.(Cent)

June 10, 1902--a tornado struck our community, removing completely the second story of the two-story house on the R.G. Rayburn farm. (This house and farm today are the property of Mrs. Charles Purnell.)

1903--The Home Bank (later known as Farmer's State Bank) was incorporated. (Cent)

1903--Mr. Jahr purchased the grocery and hardware business from Conn Abbott and he remained in that location until 1910 when he erected his building at its present location. (Cent)

The Hawkins Stable was built in 1903. Elmer Hawkins ran it for nine years. (Cent)

The date is unknown but it was probably around the turn of the century--(the information was taken from the article in the Champaign News Gazette in April 1962 on the death of Dr. L. O. Sale, 89 years of age, of Fisher, Illinois) "Dr. Sale has served the Fisher community for more than 65 years. At the time Dr. Sale started his practice in Fisher, telephones were few and the only means of transportation was by horse and railroad. He purchased one of the first automobiles in Champaign County--a 1908 Winton. He dispensed the first aspirin tablet in Champaign--before aspirins were generally known or even named. Dr. Sale's grandfather, a farmer and lay minister, settled on a farm 2 1/2 miles south and a mile east of Fisher about 1852."

1904--Articles taken from the Mahomet Sucker State under date of December 30.

#### MAHOMET SUCKER STATE

Mahomet First--Then the balance of the world

Mahomet, Illinois, Friday, Dec. 30, 1904

#### Some Hard Road Talk

(Article written by a Mahomet Township Farmer)

Editor Gazette: Yesterday three or four citizens of Mahomet and vicinity circulated a petition, or rather a remonstrance, against hard roads legislation and in less than 5 hours had 140 names on the remonstrance--for such we call it. The legislators are neither lords nor high priests, but are simply men as other men, elected by the people to do the will of the people, and the will of 99 percent of the people in Central Illinois is that they do not want any hard road legislation.

The people are alive to the fact that there is a move on foot to pass a law to build hard roads in this state. Now who are the prime movers in this? They are the automobile manufacturers, railroad companies, bicycle manufactures and cranks. All manifestly for pecuniary purposes or more plainly greed, or love of money.

They pretend that they want good roads for the benefit of the farmers in getting their grain to market, which is too silly to talk about. The facts are that the farmers get their grain to market much faster than railroads can ship it and it is a common thing everywhere that the elevators are full and farmers have to stop shelling because grain men cannot take their grain.

The facts in the case about hard road legislation briefly stated are about this: The advocates of hard roads are generally

acting from motives of greed and the farmers who use the roads ten times as much as any other class don't want anything of the kind for the reason that they are satisfied with the roads as they know a thing or two about the cost of them which would be for good macadamised roads. About \$18,000 per unit, which is more than they can afford for the fine-haired gentry who think they can fool the masses and pass a hard road law under the caption of good road legislation.

Now then in central Illinois, if men of brains, regardless of politics, were elected to the office of road commissioners and the roads were graded in the spring just as soon as conditions would permit, we would have for 9 or 10 months in the year the best of roads. Every city and village in central Illinois should start remonstrances against hard road legislation and thus let our senators and representatives know the wishes of their constituents. The people can never stand the taxation that would follow. A hard road law in addition to a call of \$1,500,000 for the state university and some other millions for state institutions of a necessity, besides about 60 state boards of commissioners which cost the state \$10 to save \$1 in many of them, and at least half of them should be repealed.

It is a lamentable fact that the law makers of Illinois instead of practicing economy as the business man does, seems to enjoy passing laws to create new offices just to give a lot of political sap-suckers an office and a salary which don't amount to anything, only to pay lot of appointees \$1 to save 10 cents. For instance: The pure food commissioner gets an ounce or two of vinegar, takes it to a chemist, the chemist analyses it, gets his pay, everything is lovely and all get a pull; no prosecutions. Instead of all this foolishness a law passed making it a penitentiary offence for adulterating anything would be more sensible and much less expensive. The same is true of the fish commission, game wardens, and dozens of other commissions.

In concluding, the tendency of the times is extravagance in all directions, politically and individually. If, in addition to all our other taxation, we have hard road legislation the land of this country will eventually be owned by the millionaires and the masses will become on a level with the peasantry of foreign countries. Now, then let the people get a move on them and let our law makers know what we want and what we don't want, just as the farmer or business man directs his employees.

Mahomet Farmer

(MSS)

#### More About Good Roads--

The question of good roads is one of vast importance to the citizens of every locality. Good roads and hard roads and pikes are too often confused and a movement to better the roads does not necessarily mean piking them. Better roads, that is better graded roads with narrower road bed, will come and come soon. Hard roads



or pikes will come eventually, but states like Illinois which do not have material conveniently located for building same cannot afford such roads until there is some means of burning clay or securing other local material. Experiments along this line are being made and may be successful in time. The one important thing about the present agitation is that people will study this question and a general improvement of our system of grading will follow. There should be no possibility of forcing any improvement upon the people until the majority are ready for it and there should be some means of restricting the vote, if this particular question ever comes to a vote, so that those who are to pay the bill, in other words the land owner, may make his influence have the weight which his tax paying liability justifies....(MSS)

#### Personal articles

Christmas tree and Dinner:--Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Dale entertained on last Saturday about twenty relatives at a dinner and Christmas tree. The rooms were beautifully decorated and after a sumptuous feast of turkey and other edibles that go to make up a dinner of the kind, the drawing room doors were thrown open, revealing a handsome Christmas tree, well loaded with presents. This feature was greatly enjoyed, especially by the little tots. Those present were W. O. Dale and family, Mrs. Nancy Bailey and son, Bert, Holly Brake and wife, Mrs. H. Morse, William Webb and family of Normal and C. W. Dale and family of St. Joseph....

High School Report:--Names of pupils in the High School making an average of 90 per cent or more during the month ending December 22: Bess Rea 98, Grace Lindsey 98, Lydia Huber 97, Ella Herriott 97, Tot Carson 95, Ben Carson 97, Lura Abbott 95, Mabel Crawford 96, Daisy Smith 95, Una Lindsey 95, Charlotte Hume 91, Nellie Purnell 90, Ethel Wright 96, Elsie Black 95 and Ethel Wykle 94....

School begins Tuesday January 3. On Monday the new building will be open and the public is invited to come and see it....

Large crowds were present at all the Christmas services. Good programs were presented and the little people enjoyed themselves immensely....

#### EXCERPTS FROM ADS WHICH WERE IN THE SUCKER STATE

##### W. Lewis and Company (a half-page ad)

\$9.00 for choice of suits that have been selling at \$10.00 and \$12.50 saving and excepting blacks suits only from these offers.

##### Fred Scott (5 x 5 ad)

Stoves and Stoves

##### F. E. Bryant (3 x 5 ad)

Harness & Buggies

##### The Home Bank (5 x 5 ad)

R. G. Rayburn, President; W.O.Dale, Vice President; J.N. Black, Cashier

EXCERPTS FROM ADS WHICH WERE IN THE SUCKER STATE (1904)

Red Front

Window Shades

Flour, following brands:

Ceresota, Ben Hur, Marvel, Wedding Ring and Pillsbury Salt, stoneware, lamps, groceries, wall paper, paints, brushes school books, writing tablets, inks, slates, shoes and rubber footwear, crushed oyster shells and candy. All for sale at

THE RED FRONT CARSON'S DRUG STORE

WINE OF CARDUI CURED HER

213 South Prior Street

Atlanta, Georgia, March 21, 1903

I suffered for four months with extreme nervousness and lassitude. I had a sinking feeling in my stomach which no medicine seemed to relieve, and losing my appetite I became weak and lost my vitality. In three weeks I lost fourteen pounds of flesh and felt that I must find speedy relief to regain my health. Having heard Wine of Cardui praised by several of my friends, I sent for a bottle and was certainly very pleased with the results. Within three days my appetite returned and my stomach troubled me no more. I could digest my food without difficulty and the nervousness gradually diminished. Nature performed her functions without difficulty and I am once more a happy and well woman.

Olive Joseph

Treas. Atlanta Friday Night Club

Secure a Dollar Bottle of Wine of Cardui Today

Winter Tourist Rates

To Cuba, Florida Gulf coast points, and all inland southern winter resorts; also Texas and California via the Big Four route. Continuing until April 30, 1905, tickets will be on sale daily from all points on Big Four Route good for return passage until June 1, 1905. Take advantage of the low rates and long return limit. For full information and particulars as to rates, limits, etc., call on Agents "Big Four Route" or address the undersigned.

Warren J. Lynch, G.P. & T.A.

Cincinnati, Ohio

Wabash Excursions

Very low tourist rates to northwest resorts on sale daily. Low rates to many points in northwest and southwest daily until Dec. 31, with three or more in party. Homeseekers excursions, first and third Tuesday of each month to many points in west, northwest and southwest. For tickets, rates or any other information, call or write David Ball, agent, Mansfield, Ill. (MSS)

- 1905--The Pastime Theatre in Mahomet is a going concern (Cent)
- 1905-1906--Third highest snowfall for winter's season with total of 36 inches.
- 1906--March 11--9-inch snowfall  
           March 20--14-inch snowfall  
           Total for March in 1906 was 32 inches  
           May 1906--Mahomet grade school burned.
- 1907--
- 1908--
- 1909--This was probably the beginning year for the 3-day Fall Carnival
- 1910--population of Champaign County was 51,829.
- 1911--Many Mahomet people are buying land in Michigan and moving to that State.  
           January 5--The Senior Woman's Club was organized in Mahomet. (Cent)
- 1911-1912--second highest snowfall for winter season--37.8 inches.
- 1912--February 16, 1912--11-inch snowfall  
           Farewell sermon preached at Presbyterian church. (Cent)  
           A lone troop of Boy Scouts was organized in Mahomet. (Cent)  
           F.O. Jahr purchased a 1913 Model Warren Detroit Car. (Cent)
- 1913--
- 1914--The Mahomet Farm Bureau Unit was organized. Big snow--farmers drove through the fields and across the fences in March .  
           February 23--8.5-inch snowfall  
           May--The Sangamon River rose 8 feet in nine hours.  
           The deal was closed between Zaye Williamson and the village council whereby the village becomes the owner of the four lots formerly belonging to Miss Williamson. The village expects to build hitch racks around the entire purchase, and the inside will be used for a village park. (Cent)  
           C. H. Williamson and Son opened their tin work and general repair shop over Black's Garage. Heating outfits, steam, hot water, hot air, and plumbing of all kinds. They were in the B.D. Abbott building north of the post office until July 1929 when they moved to their Main Street location. In 1939 Wilfred entered into business with his father and grandfather. In 1949 the Williamsons built the present concrete block building.
- 1915--The last public church service of the Presbyterian Church was held in Mahomet....Camp Fire Girls organization was a going concern.... Bell Telephone Company now has its toll line cut in the Mahomet Telephone Company switchboard. (Cent)
- 1916--Methodist parsonage burned (Cent)
- 1917--solicitations to bring electricity here from Bondville....Mahomet had their first fire wagon--a two-wheel chemical cart. (Cent)  
           May 13, 1917--present brick Shiloh church built
- 1918--November 11--Armistice signed. That evening, in celebration of the event, the Kaiser was burned in back of the old bakery in Mahomet.

There was a big celebration in Champaign with large steam engines going down the streets and torpedoes were placed on the streetcar tracks. Everyone was shouting with glee. The men would get out into the open and play their trumpets, cornets or trombones.

1919--Flu epidemic. The author well remembers her parents purchasing their first automobile--a "hard-riding" Maxwell. In the fall of the year a trip was made to Michigan to visit relatives and friends (having been one of the families who purchased land and moved to that area.) Traveling then was much different from today. The parents sat in the front seat of the open car, dressed in dusters for the roads were very dusty and one's clothes had to be protected somewhat. Days ahead plans had been made for the trip by frying potato chips in the deep fat (store-bought chips were unknown then), and chickens were fried to take along in the packed lunch (even though today we would not consider traveling any distance without packing our lunch of fried chicken etc. in an ice bucket so it wouldn't spoil and thus have food poisoning) and a special box was built by an Uncle so that it could be put into the car for the lunch. There were no motels so the family slept on the hay in the barns (along with the dogs, cats and chickens and one could be lulled to sleep with cows chewing their cuds.) Filling stations were not equipped with nice restrooms but you perhaps sought the services of the farmer's out building. Roads were poorly marked and the markings were probably painted on the telephone poles. Hard roads were few and then when you did come upon the improved roads or a bit of hard road your tires were not set up for the heat from these pavements so a blow-out was soon experienced. Traveling was fun and an experience different from the present day.

1920--The Patton Lumber Yard was established.

Some few ladies would drive around the country side with their horse and buggy and give piano lessons. This was true of Miss Vivian Benedict, a piano teacher for the Mahomet community.

The chatauqua was held each summer on the grade school grounds. Large water tanks were set up as a source of supply for drinking water. Some of the churches encouraged the youth of the church to attend their services regularly by giving them a reward of a ticket to the summer chatauqua.

1921--First year to have school at the new building of M.C.H.S.  
The Mahomet Home Bureau Unit was organized (Cent)

1922--Ralph Foster installed a wireless receiving station.

These were the days of swimming at "Horseshoe Bend" (a part of the Sangamon River) and at the Fiord or "Kilgore Hole." At "Horseshoe Bend" a small shed was built which could be used as a dressing area for the women (the men taking to the woods and behind the trees). Most women's bathing suits were old dresses but a few fancier suits were appearing--hand made from cotton knit underwear and embroidered with yarn. There were not the planned recreational programs for the children but they were just as happy (if not happier) swimming in a nearby ditch that was perhaps a foot in depth, or wading was fun too. Then there were the neighborhood taffy pulls and never did one let a fall go by without hunting nuts with the neighbors and you soon knew the "Pig nut" trees and those that had the best of nuts.

The dress of the day was cotton stockings, of course. A watermelon patch in the community was a common thing which furnished excitement for some of the daring young men of the town who hoped to "make off with one" without being caught. Then mention must be made of the frequented ice cream parlor equipped with special round tables and iron-backed chairs and there were the ice cream dishes with the spoons which had the round bowls and shorter handles than the ordinary teaspoon.

1923--October 2--Mecca Chapter No. 901 Order of Eastern Star was founded at Mahomet (Cent)

1924--Route 39 (now Route 150) was built. Country roads had always been full of mud holes, especially in the spring of the year when they became impassable. Charles Purnell's team (even though a good pulling team) could not pull the cars out of one of the holes near his farm home. One of the professors from the University of Illinois got stuck and insisted if he had a hoe he could dig his way out. It was only with the use of Carl Abbott's tractor (the first tractor in the community) that the car was pulled out. This proves that professors may know their subject but are not versed in all subjects. These were still the days of the hitch rack and the iron hitching posts and what is now the City Park of Mahomet (by the water tank) was at one time surrounded with the hitching racks. One's car (if he did own a car) was jacked up in the winter and left standing and was only suitable for use in the summer months. The mode of travel in the winter was the carriage, buggy, "houdegy gow," and some families owned the two-seated cozy cab. Everyone hoped to own a good driving team. There were still Sunday night church servies. The most common magazine in the home for the children was the "Youth's Companion." Frequently seen was the itinerant peddler or broom man. In the summer, patent medicines were sold through this vendor and his medicine show. The medicine man would draw attention and make many quick sales to the gullible persons. In the summer, the business men of the town sponsored the band concerts at which time the young teenage girls would encircle the blocks, round and round, being followed probably by the boys of a same age. Some people in the village would park their car down on the Main Street of the town so they could have a comfortable seat to watch the people go by while the band was playing. Some farmers would quit their work early enough so they could get a choice spot on the Main Street to park their car also.

1925--Route 39 was opened between Mahomet and Champaign. Zuma Gilbert moved her Hat and Gift Shop from the William Vance office to her home near the Methodist Church. Carson's Drug Store installed a Federal radio in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Barber. In the early days of the radio there were not the loud speakers but it was a matter of passing the ear phones around from one person to the other so each could take his turn in "listening in." The frequent comment:--"I got New York last night real good--what stations can you get?"

1926--July 1--Bridge opened on what is now Route 150. The Patton Lumber Yard burned during the three-day carnival (Cent)



1927--The first revival meeting was held in one of the uptown buildings for a Nazarene church. August 27, 1927, the Nazarene church was organized. (Cent)

1928--village calaboose sold.(Cent) This seems a fitting and proper place to relate a story told by Frank W. Taylor on "Kid" Rowe. Jim Herriott (great uncle of the author) was the Mayor of Mahomet. "Kid" Rowe got drunk and was put in the jail (known then as the calaboose) which was in the northwest corner of what is now Mahomet's Park, near the water tower. Jim, the Mayor, hired his nephew, B. Frank Rayburn, to act as deputy and guard the calaboose. About 4:00 a.m., B. Frank decided everything was under control and "Kid" (his prisoner) was probably asleep so Frank went home. Uncle Jim had his wife, Aunt "Ag," fix breakfast for the prisoner so that he might take it over, which he did. "Kid" out-smarted them for he was gone and inside was tied Uncle Jim's calf. (The Herriotts were living almost opposite the Methodist Church. "Kid" had got Uncle Jim's calf out of the Herriott back lot and tied it in the calaboose.)

Most everyone can remember that a Hallowe'en wasn't complete without a wagon or something set astride the calaboose and an "outside shanty" set in front of Dr. Pearman's office on Main Street.

An outstanding pupil of the school in economics might attend the Domestic Science School for the week preceding and the week of the State Fair at Springfield. Springfield Theatres had talkie movies but Champaign-Urbana did not, as yet.

1929--May 2--big snow storm and house flowers which had been set out were all frozen.

1930--

1931--These were the depression years which was a great experience to encounter. CCC Camps, WPA, Relief lines, etc. Then the farmers also experienced lost crops from the chinch bugs, drouth which too meant a lost crop, heat and working with horses meant overheated horses and perhaps a loss of a horse or two. THE DEPRESSION!! But in spite of the depression the people were going on and making the most of it. There was not the paid-for and planned recreational programs but the children had their own recreation. They were still swimming in the Sangamon River, boating on the Sangamon and camping on its banks. The boat might leak which meant one person was "baling" out while the other person did the rowing but this added to the fun and enjoyment. There was the M.M. Club for some in the summer (Mahomet Mermaids)who were camping etc. and the Stitch and Chatter for the winter months, (probably more chatting than sewing or knitting.)

The exact year is not known but it was approximately 1931 when the small Austin car appeared and its first "run" in Champaign was made on the sidewalk. A great commotion was made to see it.

1932--Pouring of concrete for Route 47 (MSS). Dr. R.H. Smith started his practice in Mahomet (Cent)

1933--March 18--5.09 inches of water fell in the rainstorm (Cent)  
1932-1933--Chicago's World's Fair

- 1934--
- 1935--Congress passed the Social Security Act
- 1936--February 9, seventeen degrees below zero. Charles Purnell's barn burned.
- 1937--November--Mahomet Town and Country Club organized....Village voted on the liquor problem; it was voted down. (This refers to the authorization on sale of liquor.) (Cent)
- 1938-1939--Village water system built. (Cent) Mahomet started selling water. September 1938--Robert Morrison rode 1135 miles on his bicycle to Harvard University. 1939--The three main streams of Methodism merged. (Tog) G.C. and Harry Tjardes sold the elevator to James F. and Leona Parker on January 3, 1939. (Cent)
- 1940--Population of Champaign County 70,578.  
The Blair Funeral Home opened for business January 1, 1940 (Cent)  
The American people broke tradition by electing Roosevelt to a third term as President.
- 1941--December 7--"Remember Pearl Harbor" (Japan's attack)
- 1942--October--Only tavern in the town burned down. Voted dry on "Wet and Dry" issue and the town has remained dry.
- 1943--No school at Cherry Grove nor Salem (country schools).
- 1944--Lone troop of Girl Scouts organized....Volunteer fire department organized. (Cent) February 10, 1944--10.9 inch snowfall.  
"D" Day, June 5, 1944. Roosevelt won election to a fourth term as President.
- 1945--"V.J." Day, August 14, 1945 (Japan's surrender ended World War.)  
May 7, 1945--Germany surrendered. October 24, 1945--United Nations formed.
- 1946--American Legion Post 1015, Mahomet, was chartered....Guy Warner's Concrete Products established at Mahomet. (Cent)  
Harmony country school closed. UNICEF was established.
- 1947--May--Auxiliary of American Legion Post organized--July 1, 1947, Mitchell Concrete Products, Inc. organized. Campbell Industries established. (Cent) First TV sets appearing in the community. Only 250,000 sets made in this country--first year on popular market.
- 1948--The Martin country school was the last country school in the community to close.

Establishment of Lake of Woods. (Cent) Present day information (1962) on the Lake reads:--Lake of woods, northeast of Mahomet. This is a 38-acre lake and is fine with its swimming beach, ample and diverse picnic sites, one of the finest eighteen-hole golf courses in downstate Illinois, boating facilities etc. The site was selected in 1948 and the first purchase of land was made--260 acres. In 1950, the Parkhills donated twenty acres. In 1953, Hartwell Howard gave twenty-three acres. In 1954, thirty-one acres was purchased so there is now a total of 331 acres. The tax revenue has averaged about \$37,000 per year and the concessions from the rental of boats, use of bathhouse and swimming area, golf fees and donations has

approximated \$65,000 per year. During the season of 1955, more than 100,000 swimmers and sunbathers paid admission. The "Little Golden Gate Suspension Bridge" was erected in 1955 which is a miniature replica of the bridge of San Francisco--a scale of about 1 to 20. The bird houses in the Park are reproductions of the State Capitol Building. Mr. H. I. Gelvin, President of the "Lake of the Woods" reports that in 1962 there were, for the season, 110,000 paid admissions to the swimming area which made an average of 1,025 per day (in spite of this being one of the coolest summers we've had.) There were 41,500 golfers in 1961 but Mr. Gelvin believes there will be 48,000 for the current 1962 year on the two courses. The three-par course was built in 1960. The Swiss Garden was built in 1961. The fountain was erected in 1956 and the water wheel in 1958. The Lake of the Woods is definitely an asset to our community and is something that is enjoyed by old and young alike.

Across the road east from the Lake of the Woods is the Champaign Sportsmen's Club. Just west of Mahomet (south of Route 150) is the Urbana Sportsmen's Club.

1949--First year for the Easter Sunrise Services at the Lake of the Woods. First Fourth of July celebration in Champaign-Urbana with the parade, evening's entertainment and fireworks at the University Stadium. Last public ice house in Champaign-Urbana was closed. The Mahomet American Legion for two years had a three-day carnival at the high school in the fall of the year, then they held the potato festival on Main Street and about 1949 is the year for the beginning of the annual fish fries which are held each fall in the City Park. The new Masonic Lodge's Building was erected.

1950--September 24--the present Nazarene church was dedicated. (Cent)  
The American Legion Post House was built on Main Street. Most of the work was donated by the men.

1950-1951--a record winter with the total snowfall for the winter season of 39.9 inches.

1951--Fourth grade Brownie Troop organized. October 11, 1951--the Mahomet Community Boosters Club was formed. (Cent)

1952--new Junior High School or grade school building addition.  
The idea of a Spring Lake two miles southwest of Mahomet was initiated but work was not actually started until 1954 and it was considered finished in 1954 or 1955.

1953--The John R. Rayburn Centennial was held in conjunction with their yearly reunion for it was one hundred years ago that the family settled in Mahomet's community.

The Korean Truce was signed July 27, 1953

1954--Senior Scout Patrol (Cent)

1955--The United Nations Building was started in New York City at the end of World War II....Polio vaccine was developed by Salk and declared safe....Men were influenced by the English during the war, when stationed on islands in very warm climates, and became interested in wearing the walking shorts. Some started making their appearance in 1945 but they were really accepted in 1955, and of course, each year the sales are greater.

1955--The Methodist Church had their Centennial celebration at Mahomet.

1956--October 1,--Dr. E. T. Moon started his practice in with his father-in-law, Dr. R. H. Smith.

A unit of the "Rainbow Girls" was organized in Mahomet. Plans started 56 and actually organized September 25, 1957.

1957--October--last days of the passenger rail service through Mahomet. Space age began with Russia's Sputnik I and II.

1958--April 10,--The footing was laid for the Firemen's Building. The Mahomet Farm Bureau unit discontinued having monthly meetings. A project of The Booster's Club was numbering the houses and putting up street signs. The I.G.A. super market was opened in Mahomet on Route 150. America launched its first satellite, Explorer I.

1959--Alaska and Hawaii became the 49th and 50th states....The St. Lawrence Seaway was completed by the United States and Canada.

1960--Work was begun on the educational building of the Methodist Church in Mahomet. The building was used for the first time in the winter of 1961.

From 1934 to 1960 R. H. Smith was our practicing physician and doctor.

March 9,--A total of 6.6 inches of snow fell Wednesday bringing the March accumulation to 12.7 inches, fourth highest on record for March at the Illinois Water Survey and about three times as much snow as the four-inch "normal" rate for the month. The total snowfall Wednesday was only slightly less than the 6.8 inches of white stuff received during a 24-hour period on the same date and on March 10 last year. A total of 6.7 inches that fell February 25 was the fourth largest total for February.

March 16,--Winter's most severe snowstorm blew across Illinois from Springfield north, Wednesday, isolating hundreds of persons, closing scores of schools, factories and stores and blocking many arterial highways with up to 6-foot drifts. Airports were shut and streets in many cities were impassable.

March 18,--The .4 inches of snowfall Friday moved the winter record higher, up to a total of 40.6 inches for the current winter, the record high for a winter season; second highest total was 1950-51 with 39.9 inches records; 37.8 inches in 1911-12 and 36 inches in 1905-06. The total for March is 20.9, heaviest on record since March 1906 when there was produced 32 inches. In 1906, there was 32 inches over a 30-day period but March 19,1960 the record was broken for a 30-day period with 32.1 inches (cumulative total since February 20). (Champaign News Gazette)

November 30--Trinkle's Super market opened.

1961--January--The temperature in Champaign-Urbana remained below freezing from 5: p.m. on January 18 until noon on the 31st. Minimum temperatures dropped to zero degrees or lower on seven days as compared with the average of three such days in January.

August--Rare humidity here--once in 20 years, type prevails on

Friday. At 7: a.m. it was 97, which prevails only 5 percent of the time; it was 74 at 2: p.m. which prevails only 8 per cent of the time; and 94 at 9: p.m., a condition prevailing only 3 per cent of the time.

1961--Community Bank of Mahomet was opened March 17, 1961.  
October--Dial system of telephones was established at Mahomet.  
First year in the new high school building--Unit 3.  
Carson's Drug Store closed its soda fountain which means no more of John's famous chocolate sundaes and sodas.  
The citizens of Mahomet voted to establish a sewage disposal system in Mahomet for the first time.  
Gas mains were put in the Town of Mahomet for the use of Natural Gas.  
Laundromats were put in two business houses.  
Twenty-two African nations won independence between 1956 and 1961.

1962--February 24,--Fifth worst 24-hour snow in Champaign-Urbana when blanketed by 9.1 inches. Greatest one-day total since February 10, 1944 when the total was 10.9 inches. It is the fifth greatest 24-hour snowfall since 1900. (CNG)

April 30,--Winds of almost tornado level were on Monday. Several barns in the community were blown down--the one on the Eliza Davis farm east of Mahomet; one on the farm of Mrs. Charles S. Purnell, as well as the implement shed, two miles east of Mahomet; the hay barn on the Edna Herriott farm where "Bill" Fisher resides one and one-half miles southeast of town, etc. Considerable damage was done to other buildings, building roofs, as well as trees etc. in the community. At the same time, two persons were killed in Rantoul and much damage was done in this community. There was also considerable damage at our neighboring town of Mansfield.

The first American astronaut encircled the earth on February 20, 1962. Col. John R. Glenn, Jr. encircled the earth three times.

World's Fair at Seattle, Washington.

May 14,--It was a mighty hot Monday. The Illinois Water Survey reported a Monday high of 88 degrees as compared to the May 14th record of 89 degrees established in 1894. It was also 88 degrees on May 14, 1900. After setting a high of 89 degrees on May 14, 1894, the perverse Illinois climate was struck with the record low of 28 degrees just a year later, May 14, 1895.

The Warner Ceptic tank place of business has closed.

October 2,--the preliminary figure given for the enrollment on the Urbana-Champaign campus totaled 23,760 as compared with a record of 22,553 for the same period last year for the fall semester. The enrollment on the Urbana-Champaign campus totaled 20,987 at the close of the regular registration period, an all-time record high for a spring semester as compared with 19,773 for last year's spring semester. There were 3,915 enrolled at Navy Pier for the spring semester. The total enrollment for the spring semester of 1962 represented a 6.14 per cent increase over 1961.



1962--August 30, The expressway from Champaign to Monticello was opened.

September--Satelite Bowling Alley opened, at Mahomet.

October--zoning laws established for the Town of Mahomet.

1962 was the coolest summer on record with an average of 72.8 degrees.

Mr. M. A. "Colonel" Phillippe points out some interesting facts in the way of comparison of prices and the change of times. Mr. Phillippe started as a carpenter in 1902, working at \$1.10 per day for a 10-hour day. In 1901, Mr. Phillippe paid \$625 for the house and lot which many of us know and remember as the Wigton house, just north of our Mahomet Community Bank. Mr. Phillippe purchased the house and lot just north of the Wigton house for \$400, tearing down the house and using the lumber to add a second story to his home. This he later sold to Mr. Wigton for \$1800.

Mr. Phillippe built the large farm home known as the Gillespie House at Harris Station in 1913. Mr. Phillippe took the carpenter contract for \$1700 but extras on the house made it cost \$1800 for all the carpentry work done. The two highest paid carpenters on this job was Mr. Phillippe, himself, and Mr. Charles Adams, their salaries being \$3.50 per day for a 10-hour day which meant 35 cents per hour with no coffee breaks. Today a carpenter earns \$3. or \$3.50 (sometimes more) per hour. The house is 24 foot square and 22 foot from the foundation to the square. Mr. Adams thought he would never get the floors laid in the large rooms for it was his first experience with laying flooring that was 1 1/4 inches in width versus the 6-inch boards, or at least those four inches in width.

Other homes Mr. Phillippe commented on which had been built by him were Mrs. Sarah Jahr's house where the mason and carpentry labor was \$625; the Len Rayburn house at a total cost of \$4300; and the Ousley Keene house at a total cost of \$3500. The last house Mr. Phillippe built was the brick home of Mrs. Charles Purnell in 1953. Mr. Phillippe's sons are still in the contracting business.

It seems only fitting and proper that some comment should be made on the current dispute of religion in the schools. Our country was founded on freedom of religion yet legislation has put a stop to religion in the schools and very recently issued an edict against the reciting of a portion of the Star Spangled Banner because of the reference made to God and religion. We would forget from whence came our beginning and demand that the schools have complete isolation from God and religion?

According to Gross's article in June's Together, "Methodists have 135 institutions of learning with eight affiliated Universities--American, Boston, Syracuse, Emory, Duke, Northwestern, Southern, Methodist and Denver.

1962--The year for the many problems and disputes on Integration and should a colored person enter the University of Mississippi?

## CHAPTER XXIII

### A BACKWARD GLANCE

Oliver Wendall Holmes once remarked (per Fosdick's Autobiography), "He is a wise man who chooses a good grandfather." Perhaps we would all make good improvements to look to our ancestors for better ways of doing things and also to improve our living by their mistakes.

One of the most interesting figures in our early Mahomet History was one Stephen Conger Abbott and with the permission of his granddaughter, Mrs. Nelle Morehouse Morrison, there is being printed some of the recordings from his diary which shows the struggle of our early ancestors in obtaining an education and in settling our western territory and in settling our own Town of Mahomet. Mr. Abbott was a great, great uncle of the author.

No attempt was made to print any part of the diary that did not seem directly related or made possible Mr. Abbott's coming to Mahomet, or showed his experiences with schools and learning a trade as an apprentice, etc. even though the entire diary was most interesting to read.

#### EXCERPTS FROM THE DIARY OF S. C. ABBOTT:

1825--Born May 25th. I remember when I was four years old. We lived on the stage road between Dover and New York City.

1831--Stephen Conger Abbott, six years old went to school three months. Phebe Conger, my cousin, the teacher, rented a room in a farm house and Ira (brother) about 8, and John (brother) about 4 years, attended. Father paid our tuition by working at fifty cents per day for her father. During these three months, John and Stephen learned the alphabet. This was in Chatauqua County, New York.

1834--When I was nine years old, I worked five months for Manning Rutan for my board and a suit of clothes. Rutan, a Grocer, owned the house and store he occupied. His wife was a retired school teacher. My work was to drive the cow to pasture and bring her back about sunset, weed the garden, bring wood and water, and go on errands for Mrs. Rutan. She was a good woman and never scolded me but often gave me little presents and made me a suit of clothes of nankeen and trimmed with braid and bright brass buttons. I also swept the store and lit the candles. (A bottle with sulphur and phosphorus and perhaps other substances--put a pine splinter in it and when exposed to the air it would ignite.)

1835--When I was ten years old, I went to work one year for my uncle, Stephen Conger, salary same as the year before at Rutan's but this year I was to go to school in the winter at Dover, two miles from my Uncle's. That winter I learned it at night by the light of my uncle's lamp in the shoe shop where I slept, as he was a shoemaker and worked evenings in winter...That winter I was at school about eight or ten days, my clothes were thin, no drawers, no undershirt nor overshoes, an old pair of worn-out leather mittens thrown away by my uncle, an old furless fur cap thrown

away by my cousin. I slept alone on a straw bed up in a chamber--in a word, that winter was one of severe suffering. When the year was out, the suit I was to have--my Aunt cut up some old ones of my Uncle's and made mine out of them.

1837--My brother Theodore, 17 years old, went to New York to learn edge tool making. I was twelve years old. I could read and cipher in simple numbers a little. There was a school four months in the year, fall and winter; free schools were not thought of then. We were poor and so much work at home so that father could work weeks during the winter.

1838--I was thirteen years old. I sheared sheep and plowed ground for buckwheat with a yoke of oxen and cut some cord wood for Mr. King, the minister, to pay \$10. for our pew a year in the church for his support or salary.

1841--Ira, then about eighteen years old, went to Rockaway to learn wagon makers trade.

1843--I was then nearly eighteen years old and went in March to Mendham, to learn the blacksmith trade. I was to serve three years at \$30.00 per year and my board, and was to learn to iron coaches and carriages for southern markets. There were eighteen apprentice boys; our board was paid at a public boarding house, Mr. Ziba Gramer's, at \$2.00 per week. At first my instructor was a man whose name was John Moston; the proprietor's name was John Marsh.

1845--After I had been at Mandham two years and four months, Mr. Marsh sold the works to John Muston and in a public speech to the employees that they were free to go or make terms with Mr. Muston, so on July 3, 1845, I left Mundham and went to Morristown and there saw a railroad for the first time. I bought a ticket for New York and in the city I thought I would get work at my trade, but failed. I had about \$1.00 in my pocket and all my goods in a small satchel. I staid overnight with my brother. Next morning I took passage on a steamer for Albany, New York. Bought five ginger cakes for dinner. Arrived at Albany about 5: o'clock same afternoon and at once started through the city to find a place to work on a farm.... I agreed to work from July 7 for one month in harvest for \$15.00 and board. Worked about seventeen hours each day, ate four square meals and slept on a feather bed....took steamboat for New York. Next day I took a steamboat to New Haven, Conn....then by R.R. to Boston, Mass....Found work at \$1.50 per day, pay my own board; found board on Lowell St. at \$3.50 per week, washing at ten cents per piece....took steamboat to Augusta, State of Maine ....got work in my old place in Boston at \$2.00 per day and board two in a bed at \$2.50 per week....I finally had \$100.00 and put it in Tremont Savings Bank and went to Providence, R.I. and worked for Stanton Thurber, \$2.50 per day two months, got the money, sewed it under the lining of my pants and started West. At New York left trunk at Adams Express to be sent when notified; if in one year they did not hear from me to send to my father at Rockaway, New Jersey. Bought \$5.00 worth of charts, Pichin's novels, started on foot to Philadelphia, Pa., 100 miles; sold out and stopped at Trenton, New Jersey and went to work for Peter Cooper in machine shop, 3 months at \$2.00 per day. At Philadelphia, got passage for Charleston, South Carolina on brig, from there to Savannah, Georgia. Worked on the wharf \$1.00 per day, kept batch with the free niggers. From there in fishing snack, worked my way to New Orleans. Worked on wharf and got place as roustabout on steamboat, Sultana, to Cincinnati, Ohio.

Worked blacksmithing on Vine St. three or four weeks, then went as fireman on steamboat to Nashville, Tenn. No work here. Went as deck hand to Fort Gibson on the Arkansas River, Indian Territory. Now I thought I would enter eighty acres Government land with some land seekers. Went from Talequah to Forsyth, Mo. on foot with food packed on a horse and our blankets; down White River to Napoleon on Mississippi River. Worked as fireman on a boat to St. Louis. Found a job on Fifth St. \$2.00 a day about three weeks. Then went up river to Dubuque, Iowa. No work here. At St. Louis again bought \$5.00 worth novels and charts, went by boat to Peoria, started east for Bloomington, Ill. Always staid at farm houses and paid bills with pictures and books. At LeRoy, took stage for Urbana, two-horse spring wagon carrying the mail. Stopped at Middletown at Mathew Johnson's Tavern east of town. Laid over for next trip two days. Got acquainted with the Taylor brothers and their widowed mother. We picked one half bushel blackberries and she made a Dutch blackberry cobbler in an oven by the fireplace with hot coals on the lid. At two A.M. the stage called. They all got up and the driver helped to eat the cobbler and we got to Brewer's Tavern in Urbana for breakfast.

July 1847--The tavern was on the corner of Main St., just east of the courthouse. I was hunting land to enter, my money still in the bank at Boston, Mass. Bought of Brewer, 40 acres with a small cabin on it, at the edge of the timber, for \$3.00, about a mile N.E. of the courthouse. He said at Danville, the land office, I could enter eighty acres joining his and gave me the number of section and Town and County so I went to Danville on foot. I was to enter the eighty acres and send for my money and pay Brewer soon as I could, by express, get it. But at Danville, found it already entered but the owner was a clerk in the office and offered to sell it to me for \$3.00 per acre. A stranger told me it was a game, that he did not own it and he would show me good bottom land on the Wabash and how to get it for \$1.25 per acre. I went with him to his cabin on the Wabash and staid two days. He stole chickens at night and burnt the feathers....A small stern whaler came up the river. I got on and staid on and went down to Evansville. Got on a Pittsburg boat and worked a short time in a stone quarry, then got on canal boat for Philadelphia, Pa....Went to Boston again to work....It was about January 1849.

1849--My \$100.00 was still in the Savings Bank. I got a bank book now, determined to save one hundred more and buy land in Champagne County, Illinois, near Urbana....In June 1849, I had \$200.00 in the bank. Made arrangements for the money to be sent to me with my friend H.L. Maservy and started West to find Government land--by R.R. and steamboat to Albany, New York, then canal boat towed by horses 300 miles to Buffalo, New York, then by steamer to Chicago. Now July 1849, worked two weeks, then began to shake every other day with the ague...Was told it was an unhealthy place. Went by canal to Peoria, Illinois, by steamboat to St. Louis, worked short time....Took passage on steamer for Cincinnati....I found work in Pittsburg but not strong enough to work so I made my way toward Boston again by canal....October 1849--I worked at same old place....I learned that gold was discovered in California and a ship would start from New York in December, around Cape Horn, 1700 miles to San Francisco, fare \$200....Went to New York and found the first ship, same line, would start January 1st from New Orleans so I got passage on a brig and sailed for New Orleans....



1850--First week in January of 1850 we were to sail....Inspector pronounced ship rotten....Now we must go to New York and wait....About January 20th a boat started for St. Louis. The river now open. I learned of the overland route and that trains of teams would start April first, or before, with oxen, mules and horses--2000 miles....supposed to take about four months....found work in St. Louis....Worked until last week in March 1850. Went to Independence, Missouri....There were hundreds of tents for mules out in the prairie and teams and droves of mules and horses and oxen....I found several young men forming companies to cross the plains. With three other young men about my own age, agreed to share equal in profit and loss. We bought a light two-horse wagon, four yokes of wild steer, three years old, and one bronco and provisions for four months and on April 4, 1850, started with wagons, two or three abreast, as far as you could see. Second day crossed the Kaw River now called Kansas River and followed the crow....On Humbolt River, one of our oxen gave out, feet sore, and so we killed it, scraped all the meat off the bones and built a fire and dried and smoked it over the fire on poles and called it jerked meat. We tied the other ox behind the wagon and when it could no longer walk, we killed it also....We followed Carson River and crossed Sierra Nevada about first week in August. Landed at Ringold on a branch of American River about 40 miles east of Sutter's Mill. Sold oxen and wagon for \$150.00 and bought mining tools and provisions and next day went digging for gold. Flour or meat or onions or potatoes were \$1.00 per pound. We found gold in all the creeks but not enough to pay for our food....Then bought a claim for \$75.00; worked it for three weeks and in three months we were penniless....Offered at several places to work for my board but idle men were too plenty....Went to work cutting cord wood at \$4.00 per cord....catch wild horses and cattle at \$100.00 per month and board....Worked until July 1851.

1851--out of work again and have about \$700.00. Start for home. Panama Route fare \$225.00....Arrived in New York July 24th, 1851....Staid home about three weeks. Left my money with the family....except \$125 to pay my fare back second class fare. Back same route to San Francisco....

1852--From this on, now the spring and summer of 1852, I built a slab house ten feet square, stone fireplace. When I got a \$50.00 gold coin, I had a two-quart tin can, and after dark and supper over, I dug a hole twenty inches deep right in the fire, put my money in it, covered with tin. Every night in the darkness after fire was out, stick my butcher knife down and if it struck tin, I knew it was there. So until I had \$500.00, then dug it up, put in sack on my wagon in the horse feed, and at Stockton, sent by express to J. C. Abbott, New York and deposit in the Savings Bank....I did not draw until I bought 220 acres of Prairie Land and ten acres of timber in Piatt County, Illinois. Now 1852, sold my teams, came to New York via Nicaragua Route. Worked as a fireman from San Francisco to San Juan Del Sur, Nicaragua. Crossed the Isthmus by mule and steamboat to San Juan Del Norte, then by steamship to New York....After visiting home and helping my father and mother with money for their needs, I started for Illinois to buy Government Land once more. December 1852--went to Reynoldsburg, Ohio. My brother, Ira, was in business there. Bought a horse, saddle and bridle and started via Indianapolis, Indiana for Illinois....I got as far as Danville, Vermillion County, Illinois and my horse was lame. I made my way to Urbana, Illinois, staid one day.



Could find no land to enter. Horse worse. Went on foot, leading the horse four or five miles to John Lindsey's Tavern, half way to Middletown on Sangamon River. Hired him to doctor my horse and furnish one for me to look for land. Staid there one week. Horse got better. Crossed the Sangamon on a scow made of puncheons. No bridges on this river. Found 160 acres for sale about three miles west of town, owned by George Boyer, just over the line in Piatt County and about one mile from timber, fine Prairie land, every acre good land to plow. Bought 160 acres at \$.00 each and 80 acres at \$1.50 per acre, joining it on the north and ten acres of timber in Sec. 16-T 20-R 7 E, Champaign County, Illinois. Got board with Mr. Boyer. Bought oak lumber at Centerville and Cherry's Mill, north of Middletown and built at my own expense an addition to the north of Boyer's barn, 12 x 13 feet. Went back to Danville, traded my stallion for a span of four-year old mares and bought a wagon and harness and hay and grain and hired Mr. Dent to make rails to fence in 80 acres, and Mr. Isaac Beckett to break it up and plant sod corn at \$3.00 per acre. There were no railroads here; no soft lumber. I contracted with Mr. Pick-erel and Black to build a house on my farm--16 x 30, 1 1/2 stories high, four rooms and wardrobe and pantry. Hired Peter Crabtree to make the shingles of my timber (oak), hauled my lumber from Covington, Ind., about 75 miles....Fenced the 80 acres with stake and rider rail fence.

1853--House built and plastered and painted white. Plastered by Richard Steward, painted by Isaac Beckett. About July 20th, 1853, was making rails in my timber, the ten acres which now is Pankake's addition to Mahomet, Illinois, and cut my leg with a sharp axe and sliced off a piece of the bone....Now for a long time was not able to work....Left Boyers and went to a hotel to board in Middletown, kept by one Dr. Adams. In August, went two miles west to a Tavern kept by Mrs. John J. Rea. House finished, well dug, all the first 80 acres in sod corn. My leg did not heal. I rented the farm to one James Scott....About October 1st, 1853, I sold the 160 acres of timber to one Gabriel McWilliams for \$10.00 per acre, \$1700.00 (It had cost me about \$2000.00 but I was discouraged and now determined to leave Illinois for good and return to New Jersey, my old home.) A team--two horse and wagon, I traded for house and Lot No. 4 in Middletown and rented it to Mr. Dale. My horse and buggy I sold and went from Bloomington by railroad to Peoria, then by canal to Chicago, by steamer to Buffalo and canal packet boat to Albany and steamboat to New York and home again....But after resting and doctoring my lame leg, and relating all I knew about the far West again and again to the neighbors and counting up my profits and losses, now in my 28th year, and a cripple, perhaps, for life, I thought now what can I do....There was another girl at Mr. Rea's--industrious and handsome, but too young, only sixteen....As I stated above, our family and others in New Jersey were anxious to know all about Illinois so I told them as follows: When I went to Mr. Boyer's to board in December 1852, there was only one church in the Village and that Was Baptist (close Communion), the log school-house about a mile from my land, a fireplace and slabs with legs for benches and greased paper over the opening for a window. That was the place of worship when the circuit rider came around once a month....I staid at home about three weeks, then returned to Illinois and bought

forty acres of land on the Piatt County line with a log house and a new frame house nearly finished, land all broken up and fenced and five acres of timber for \$800.00

1854, February 23rd--was married to Miss Mary E. Rea and now more than 48 years have passed and we are alive and yet able to keep house and do most of our chores. Miss Rea was only sixteen years old when we were married. I had about \$2000.00 and told her I was going to work hard, late and early, and get rich. She said she did not want to be rich but just comfortable. Well, we are now old and gray, our children grown and gone, a great many changes have taken place and I have been rich for many years but Mary E. is not comfortable yet. We went to housekeeping on the eighth day of March 1854 and now we have several pieces of furniture and cupboard which are yet in good order that we bought then. We bought our first cow of Amos Dickson. We lived on this farm one year, sold it and bought eighty acres of Thos. Martin, joining it on the south. The eighty had a log cabin on it which I tore down and built a frame house and stable and other out buildings. Lived here one year and sold it, then bought one hundred sixty acres five miles northwest of Middletown. Here was a frame house and I built two additions to it and fenced eighty acres, set out orchard, and here on June 5th, 1856 our first child was born. We called him Byron D....We staid two years on this place then rented the farm to J. V. Pittman and moved to town

1858--Bought a shop and went to work at my trade, blacksmithing. In September I sold the shop and the family went to Mr. Rea's to board and I went to Evanston to the Theological Seminary. In October, same year, our daughter was born and we called her Laura E. Same year the Presbyterian Church was commenced....We bought a house and lot on Main Street, opposite No. 11....A new Methodist church has been built....I had been licensed as a local preacher and so I held meetings in the schoolhouses, but found I lacked in education and knowledge of Theology and so as our houses and stores, now six in number, brought a good income I thought best to take a term there and qualify myself for that work....

1860--In October I moved to Bloomington, Illinois to travel with Rev. Hecox, the McLean Circuit, two villages and six other appointmenets. Staid one year....

1862, August 8th--enlisted in 125th Regiment, U.S. Vol. Infantry for three years as a private soldier at \$13.00 per month. Now I was thirty seven years old past....

1863, January 24th--our third and last child was born and was named Abijah Conger Abbott....At the battle of Peachtree Creek, near Atlanta, Georgia, I was wounded by musket ball and I have that ball in my thigh yet, having carried it now nearly thirty-eight years....

1865, April--was elected Tax Collector and the fees were five or six hundred dollars....In June was employed by a college to travel as agent for a year at \$100.00 a month and \$1.00 per day for my horse and buggy and all my expenses paid....

1869, Fall--I was appointed as traveling preacher on the DeWitt Circuit, the parsonage at DeWitt, salary \$600. per year....When the railroad was built and the name of the village was changed from Middletown to Mahomet and incorporated as a village.

1875--I was Post Master at Mahomet twelve years. At the same time, School Treasurer, salary \$100.00 per year part of the time and then \$75.00. I held this office continuously for twenty-one years until old age and failing health admonished me to resign.

1885--was elected supervisor of the township and every year for five years following. I had been commissioned Notary Public in 1876 and this I held for twenty-four years. From time to time was village Trustee, village Treasurer, School director, Sunday School Superintendent and other labors until now I am nearly seventy-seven years old and nearly deaf and sight and memory fast failing. I am ready to leave my labors to others and rest.

## CHAPTER XXIV

### PROGRESS?

There were so many choice bits that had to be left out of this book for lack of space and there were times when it seemed a waste of time to be penning this back history for we all know that oftentimes a mistake is made to look back for too long a period of time, rather than facing into the future. Yet, we know it is from the past that we gain insight on how to meet the future. Many of these chapters will be of no interest to some of you and yet there are others who are interested but haven't the time nor the opportunity to go to our libraries, our courthouse, and other places where the facts were obtained. We suggest that you read the chapters that are of interest and pass by completely, or lightly, those others which hold no interest for you--leaving those chapters for the true historians at heart.

Have we progressed since we are no longer teaching the fundamentals of Reading, 'Riting and 'Rithmetic, but are pushing out to other fields? Progress? We know the arguments which occurred this past year in the State of Wisconsin when they were wanting to put back into use the McGuffey's Readers because they were considered so good for the study of Phonics.

Prof. Seichi Konzo, acting head of the meachanical and industrial engineering department, in his letter to the teaching and research staff, points to freshman difficulties--"One of the shocks of the year occurred when we were asked to distribute mid-semester grades," he states. "Fifty per cent of one group had at least one E on their cards, and eighty per cent had at least one D grade or worse. The chief culprit as far as poor grades were concerned was Rhetoric 101. The more I probed into the subject, the more depressed I became. Let me share with you the evidence from the experience of last year's midterm record. Out of 1,077 freshmen engineering students enrolled in Rhetoric 101, two students received a grade of A, and 39.9 per cent received grades of D. This is a puzzlement. Only two A's for 1,077 students." Where does the fault stand if we are not teaching Rhetoric as it should be taught?

In Harry Emerson Fosdick's "Autobiography," he quotes his grandfather's comments on schools a number of years ago--"I visited such a school. When I came near the door I thought there was no school. All was still. But as I entered the door the cause of this unnatural stillness was explained. The teacher held in his hand a new rawhide, which kept the order, but a single glance at the class convinced me there was no happiness there. Come with me to a school I know well. A breathless silence pervades the room. As the teacher kindles into earnestness and eloquence, the children kindle into responsive enthusiasm. Whenever his eye meets theirs he sees the glow of the fire he is lighting in their hearts, and his own gathers new warmth in return. Such a man is fit to teach, and you could scarcely break the spell by which he holds his pupils, though you should give them for play things shining garments, broken off from the sun."

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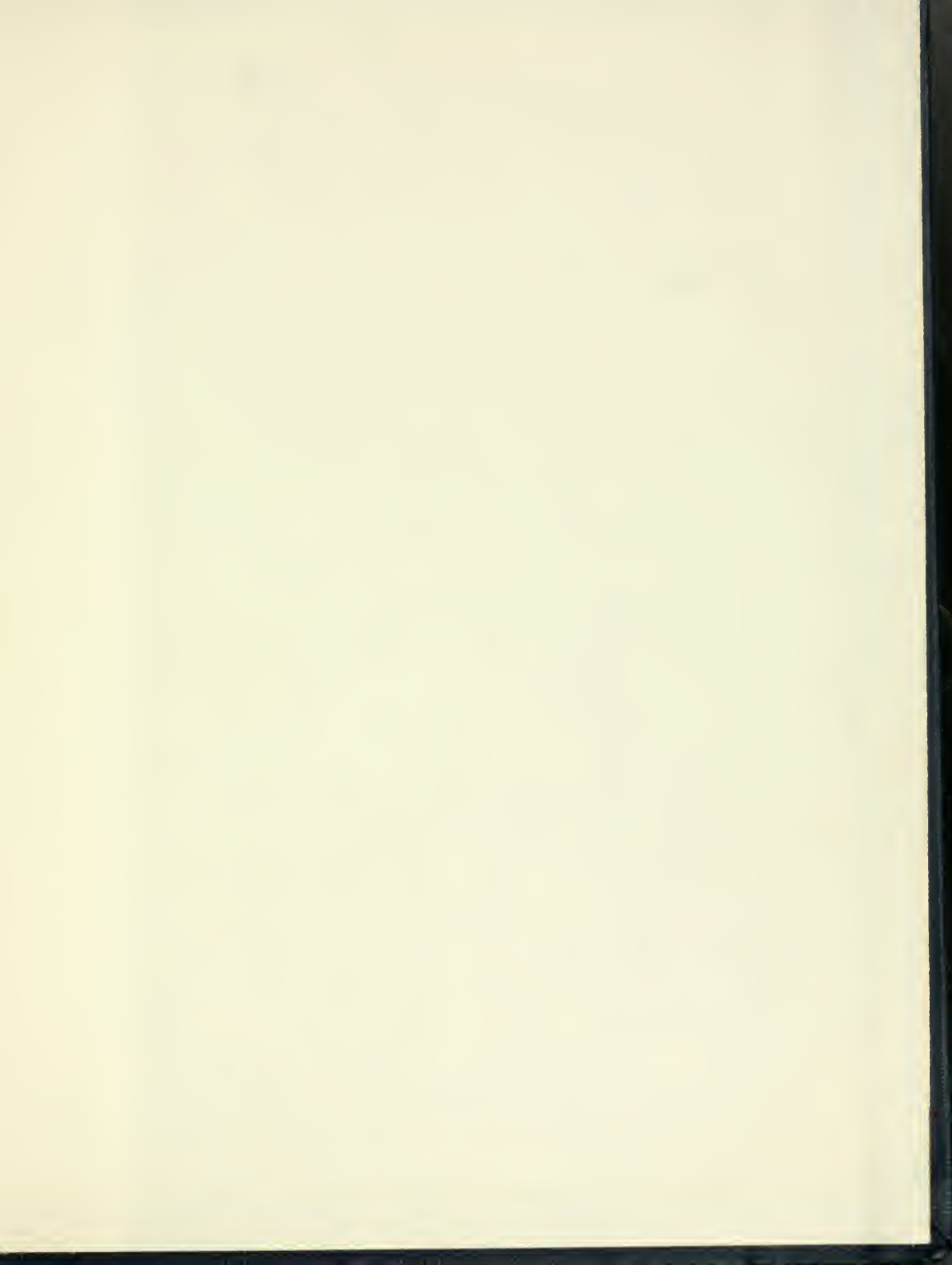












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